

Owen mission on Rhodesia goes to Africa next week

With 1978 still the target date for Rhodesia's transition to the independent state of Zimbabwe, a team of Anglo-American experts, led by a Foreign Office specialist, is going to Africa to consult all parties, including Mr Ian Smith, to see how a settlement can be reached. Announcing this in the Commons yesterday, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, said he expected the team to report back early next month.

US joins team seeking settlement in 1978

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

In a new effort to keep the momentum going for a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday that British and American officials will go to Africa for consultations with all the parties concerned.

The team, described as a "consultative group", will be led by Mr John Graham, Deputy Under Secretary at the Foreign Office in charge of African affairs. He will start next week. Mr Vance, the American Secretary of State, will appoint a senior American official shortly. Dr Owen told the Commons yesterday that the team will go to Africa for consultations with all the parties concerned.

Both Governments wish to reiterate their determination to work for the independence of Rhodesia under majority rule in 1978. Dr Owen said. "They have been encouraged by their contacts so far to believe that detailed consultations about an independence constitution and the necessary transitional arrangements could be a satisfactory way to achieve this."

They had, therefore, agreed Britain and the United States should now begin "intensive consultations" with the Rhodesians. Although Dr Owen still has 248 as the target date for independence for Rhodesia, as a new state of Zimbabwe, the Foreign Secretary said he was "quite sure" that the Rhodesians would accept a settlement in 1978. Dr Owen said. "They have been encouraged by their contacts so far to believe that detailed consultations about an independence constitution and the necessary transitional arrangements could be a satisfactory way to achieve this."

But Dr Owen believes that, with the dangers involved in an escalation of the "armed struggle" and the desire of most of the African leaders for peaceful settlement, his new line has a chance.

The United States role has been fully confirmed. American officials will work hand in glove with the British team. If Mr Mugabe or Mr Nkomo, leaders of the Patriotic Front, object to the Americans' presence, the British side of the consultative group can proceed on its own.

But it is the firm British hope that the Patriotic Front will not boycott this latest attempt to find a settlement, and Dr Owen will not accept vetoes. In due course, a British liaison office will be established in Dar es Salaam or Lusaka.

As for Mr Ian Smith, Dr Owen has already told him to step down before an election. A great deal depends, there-

fore, as it always has done, on Mr Smith's own attitude. Hugh Noyes writes: Dr Owen told the House that he expected the Anglo-American team of experts to report back to him in early June. Mr Graham would have no precise terms of reference, and would be operating under the direct authority of the Foreign Secretary. There was great urgency to reach a settlement.

His announcement was greeted with wariness on the Labour back benches and world weary cynicism on the Tory side of the House. Many Labour MPs were concerned that too deep an involvement by the United States could bring not only a reciprocal initiative from the Soviet Union, but also a backlash from many African leaders already suspicious of the ill-fated Kissinger proposals.

Mr Martin Flannery, Labour MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, pointed out that the front line presidents had made clear that they did not want the United States to become involved. This attempt at involvement by America gave the impression that we could not go ahead on our own, said Mr Flannery.

There was also a suspicion in the House, which Dr Owen's words did little to allay, that a compromise settlement might be arranged at too high a price merely for the sake of getting the back of the British Government. Mr Flannery said. "The Rhodesians would cross the Rubicon in the knowledge that a half hour, compared with the seven hours taken by subsonic jets. Single fares between London and New York by Concorde will be £400, compared with £37.50 first class subsonic. Both airlines expect to have to do a minimum of marketing in the United States, where Concorde is already well known among the business community through the controversy which surrounds it and the regular services that have flown into Washington since May 24 last year."

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Mr John Graham: Off to Africa next week.

New York judge ends ban on Concorde

From Peter Strafford
New York, May 11

British Airways and Air France won a significant victory in New York today when Judge Milton Pollack, of the federal district court, ruled that the ban on landings of Concorde at Kennedy airport was illegal.

Air France immediately announced that it would start daily Concorde flights into Kennedy on June 20. British Airways was more cautious, in view of the legal battles still to be fought, but said that it intended to begin its flights on the same day as France, whenever that might be.

The ban was imposed by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which runs the airport, in response to opposition to Concorde from local residents. Judge Pollack ruled today that the authority did not have the power to prevent Concorde landings for a test period, as they were approved last year by Mr William Coleman, who was then Secretary of Transportation.

The port authority's ban, he said, was "in irreconcilable conflict" with a decision of the federal Government. The decision passed in March, 1976, in which it said it would itself test Concorde operations for six months before coming to a decision, was void.

The port authority announced immediately that it would appeal against the decision. Spokesmen said that, if the airlines took action to begin actual flights into Kennedy, they would apply for a stay on Judge Pollack's decision.

The judge's task was not to decide whether Concorde was too noisy to land at Kennedy. He was asked simply to rule on the constitutional issue of whether the port authority had the power to stand in the way of a decision taken by the federal Government.

He found there was no doubt of the federal Government's exclusive statutory responsibility for noise abatement. The fact that noise regulations were often left to local airport authorities was the result of voluntarily granted authority.

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Mr Andrew Strouthous, president of the students' union at the Polytechnic of North East London and a member of the National Executive of Students' Union, said he was "in a bit of a bind" after he had refused to obey a High Court injunction banning him from the polytechnic premises. The college had applied for Mr Strouthous's commitment on the ground that he was in contempt of court in continuing to enter college premises despite an injunction obtained on April 6.

Mr Strouthous, aged 29, a member of the Socialist Workers' Party and a former social security officer, has taken a year's sabbatical leave from his job to study sociology to serve as the union's full-time president. In November, he was expelled from the college for his part in disrupting a governors' meeting. But he ignored the expulsion and continued to work in the union offices on the campus. Earlier this year he took part in a "sit-in" occupation of buildings in protest against increased fees.

That occupation ended when the college obtained the injunction against him and four other students, restraining them from trespassing. At yesterday's trial Mr Justice Kerr told him: "I have not the slightest desire to send you to prison and I hope you have not any desire to go there as a martyr. But the court's orders and the law have got to be obeyed."

Mr Strouthous replied: "I am the democratically elected president of the students' union. I must carry out my job. I will carry out my job. I will not be intimidated by this court." He argued that the college had no right to exclude him from premises licensed to the union.

Police officers were called into the court when more than a hundred students in the public gallery began shouting and banging on benches. They were ushered out into the Strand.

Mr Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, said he deeply regretted the High Court decision to imprison Mr Strouthous. Internal college disputes could never be resolved by court action, he said.

Mr Karl Darby, head of the polytechnic's education and information division, said: "We are very sorry things have had to reach this stage. We had hoped all along that our differences with the students' union could be resolved by negotiation. But they were not prepared to meet us halfway."

Appointment of Mr Callaghan's son-in-law was Foreign Secretary's personal choice 'Times' Economics Editor to be Washington Ambassador

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

In a move which took the diplomatic world by surprise yesterday, Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, announced the appointment of Mr Peter Jay, the Economics Editor of The Times, as British ambassador in Washington.

The appointment is Dr Owen's personal choice. The hardest part about his decision was to persuade the Prime Minister that to send his son-in-law to this most important of diplomatic posts was the right thing to do, despite the obvious risk of charges of nepotism.

Dr Owen has known Mr Jay, who is aged 40, for some years and has the highest regard for his talents. His primary consideration, however, was the advantages of appointing such a young man to Washington at a time when a new and young American Administration is taking over.

He introduced Mr Jay to President Carter and Mr Vance, the Secretary of State, during the summit meeting this week. Mr Jay, who is married to Mr

Callaghan's daughter Margaret, will take up his new post in early July.

The present ambassador, Sir Peter Ramsbotham, who has had an extremely distinguished career in the diplomatic service, has been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Bermuda. He is aged 57 and will have some two and a half years to go before retirement. Announcing the change, Dr Owen paid particular tribute to his achievements in Washington.

There are several precedents for a political appointment in Washington, notably Sir Oliver Franks (1948-52), Sir David Ormsby Gore (1961-65), Sir John Freeman (1965-71) and Lord Cropper (1971-74).

Mr Jay is a rather younger man than his predecessors, but Dr Owen sees his own appointment as Foreign Secretary as a clear pointer in the same direction. Washington is a special case, however, and he would not expect to make any other ambassadorial appointments outside the diplomatic service.



Mr Peter Jay in his office yesterday.

Insisting that the choice of Mr Jay was his own, Dr Owen said last night: "He is one of the most able people of my generation. I believe he will establish an easy and informal relationship with many of the people of his own generation who have prominent positions in the new American Administration."

"He will bring to the job his own ideas and his own attitudes and give an image of Britain in the United States - not just a view of the present, but a view of the future."

Dr Owen's job is to go beyond the diplomatic service. He added that he had "total confidence" that Mr Jay would do a good job. He should not be excluded simply because he had married Mr Callaghan's daughter, whom Dr Owen also commended as a talented person in her own right.

Surprise was the dominant reaction in Whitehall last night, where the appointment was totally unexpected. For the Foreign Office, which is anxiously awaiting the report on its activities by the Think Tank, the news cannot have been other than shocking.

A further point about a political appointment is that what would happen if a Conservative Government came to power. It would be open to a new prime minister to make a change, but Dr Owen probably takes the view that the present Government is not about to be defeated.

David Wood, Political Editor, writes: "Frumpbencher, Continued on page 8, col 4"



Ex-Com Wallace Virgo: Ex-Com from club owner.

Scotland Yard chiefs took bribes, jury finds

By Clive Borrell

Wallace Virgo, a former commander of the Metropolitan Police, was found guilty at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of receiving two bribes, one of £2,000 and another of £50, from James Hummer, a strip club owner. He was acquitted on two other charges alleging the acceptance of bribes from Mr. Humphreys of £50 and £1,000.

Mr. Virgo, aged 59, of Ledbury, Hereford, awaits verdicts on two other charges against him, including one of conspiracy. Also before the court are Leslie Frank Alton, aged 47, a retired detective inspector, of Hereford Avenue, Chesham; Bernard Peter Brown, aged 45, a former detective constable, now a licensee of the Ploagh Inn, Colchester; and Douglas David Gatch, aged 39, a suspended detective sergeant, of Cotswold Lane, Addington, and Rodney Lawrence Tilley, aged 45, a retired detective sergeant, of Edelsborough, near the licensee of the Rule and Square public house. They have all pleaded not guilty to conspiring with others to accept money and other considerations from pornographic traders as inducements for showing favour. All were members of the obscene publications squad.

Mr Justice Mansfield again sent the jury to an hotel for the night. They will be considering further verdicts today. Mr Virgo, aged 59, of Ledbury, Hereford, awaits verdicts on two other charges against him, including one of conspiracy. Also before the court are Leslie Frank Alton, aged 47, a retired detective inspector, of Hereford Avenue, Chesham; Bernard Peter Brown, aged 45, a former detective constable, now a licensee of the Ploagh Inn, Colchester; and Douglas David Gatch, aged 39, a suspended detective sergeant, of Cotswold Lane, Addington, and Rodney Lawrence Tilley, aged 45, a retired detective sergeant, of Edelsborough, near the licensee of the Rule and Square public house. They have all pleaded not guilty to conspiring with others to accept money and other considerations from pornographic traders as inducements for showing favour. All were members of the obscene publications squad.

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Government expects to get phase three deal based on 10% pay rises

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Government expects to agree with the TUC on a reduction of the pay policy in mid-July, but on an average 10 per cent rise in earnings over the next year. Mr Healey, the Chancellor, rates his chances of winning a realistic wage restraint deal at 5 to 4 in favour.

Mr Healey, who had further talks with union leaders earlier this week, expects negotiations on the social contract to be more prolonged than in previous years, but he is determined to see matters through to a successful conclusion. It is accepted in the Cabinet that final endorsement of the third year of income policy will have to wait until the congress of the TUC in September.

To reach an agreement that will genuinely avoid an uncontrolled surge in wages, the Chancellor is willing to modify

his expectations by a further 2 per cent in the realization that "flexible" pay bargaining will prompt greater wage drift than the tight curbs of the past two years.

Timing is regarded as of the essence. The International Monetary Fund team of inspectors is due to visit Britain soon, and Mr Healey wants to have on the inspectors the likelihood of a deal with the unions during the weekend of July 3-10, immediately after the policy-making conference of the miners and the transport workers on whose assent much depends.

The Government will hold out the prospect of a reversal of the recent trend towards falling living standards, arguing that a 10 to 12 per cent rise in earnings combined with other economic measures, including income tax cuts, will give a 1 per cent rise in real take-home pay. Productivity bargains will be allowed during phase three of

the social contract if they can be shown to be self-financing, but the Treasury wants payment to be made quarterly after each phase is introduced so that they can be vetoed by the company's auditors. Ministers are resigned to the fact that the TUC will not participate in any third-party vetoed machinery on the issue of the Tories pay board.

In particular, the Government concedes that it will have to let through a productivity deal in the last phase. The issue of how much flexibility in reality, extra money will be allowed in the third year of income policy is expected to be the chief stumbling block when the unions and the Chancellor sit down to negotiate in earnest very soon. The Government would like to see a figure set in any agreement, but realizes that that may be politically impossible. ADW rejects pay pact, page 2

1,700 cases of Ulster intimidation

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

More than 1,700 cases of intimidation arising in the first nine days of the loyalist strike in Northern Ireland have been referred to the Royal Ulster Constabulary for investigation. The RUC said last night that it had also cleared 700 roadblocks.

Violence continued in many parts of Ulster yesterday. By last night three people had been killed, two victims of loyalist paramilitary groups and the third believed to have been a Protestant involved in making a bomb. Twenty-eight civilians have been injured and 38 police officers have been reported hurt. In addition, 105 loyalists have so far been convicted, charged or summoned for a variety of offences connected with the strike, ranging from intimidation to riotous behaviour.

The economic damage caused by the campaign is thought to have risen to serious proportions despite the refusal of most ordinary workers to heed the strike call.

Last night a senior academic source at Queen's University, Belfast, estimated the cost to industry and commerce through lost production and orders at more than £5 million. That figure will be much increased if foreign investment is deterred by the widespread international publicity given to the strike.

Ulster's bus services were suspended yesterday, forcing thousands of workers to walk to and from work in heavy rain. At an angry and emotional meeting in Belfast 800 drivers

Worker-director plan likely to be diluted

By Our Labour Editor

Trade union leaders yesterday agreed with the Government's recent reaffirmation of its intention to go ahead with legislation on industrial democracy, but their gratification may turn a little sour when the Bill is published in the summer.

Government sources indicate that the legislation to be brought before Parliament will not accord with the majority report of the Butler committee, which recommended that union worker-directors should have seats on company boards.

The TUC economic committee said after its meeting that it "regretted" the Butler committee report, but reaffirmed its commitment to publish legislative proposals before the summer recess and their intention to legislate next session, giving

workers the right to represent them on the boards of large companies and nationalized industries.

The committee is to continue negotiations with ministers, and there is likely to be a further meeting later this month. TUC leaders expect to reach a conclusion on their discussions at their meeting next month.

Senior Cabinet members, however, argue that the Government's position in Parliament and the pact with the Liberals rule out a full-blooded translation of the Butler majority proposal into law. The outcome of the negotiations with unions and employers' interests is thought likely to be a compromise based towards the CBI's proposal for building up industrial democracy from the shop floor, rather than starting in the boardroom.

CBI seeks meeting with Liberals, page 23



Mr John Graham: Off to Africa next week.

Execution by injection in Oklahoma

From Peter Strafford
New York, May 11

Oklahoma has adopted legislation which provides for the death penalty to be carried out by intravenous injection of drugs. The Bill was signed into law yesterday by Governor David Boren in Oklahoma City and makes Oklahoma the first state to adopt this form of execution.

Mr Bill Dawson, a state senator and the main promoter of the legislation, said death should come in a matter of seconds. The process, initially would be similar to anaesthesia for surgery, since the dose would include a barbiturate mainly designed to induce sleep.

But the dose would also include a chemical paralytic which would certainly cause death. The two drugs would be fed into the injection tube from two lesser tubes.

Similar legislation has been adopted in Texas, and was today signed by the governor. The New Mexico Bill, and others have been introduced in Maryland and Illinois.

Leaders of Nato agreed on Carter proposals

From Peter Strafford
New York, May 11

Nato leaders ended their meeting in London yesterday by adopting the proposals made by President Carter before he flew home. Mr Carter said the 15 member-nations would co-operate in defence production, produce a programme for the 1980s and assess long-term trends in East-West relations. They will meet again in Washington next spring. American officials considered the meeting a real success. Report and text page 8

Agricultural victory

Ulster Unionist MPs saved the Government from defeat when they abstained at the end of a debate in the Commons on agriculture. The voting figures were 273 to 271, a government majority of two. Parliamentary report, page 16

Wider use of parole

The average number of prisoners paroled at any one time in 1976 was 2,750, equivalent to the population of six fairly large prisons, Sir Louis Petch, Parole Board chairman, said. The figure had risen from 1,500 the previous year. Page 5

Brussels turns down Britain on fishing

The European Commission has rejected proposals to allow British fishing vessels within their own waters. Mr Jenkins and his colleagues also decided to take the Irish Government to the European Court of Justice for refusing to lift its unilateral ban on more fishing vessels from other EEC nations. Page 7

Housing improves

A Department of the Environment survey states that the number of sub-standard dwellings in England and Wales has fallen by more than 40 per cent in the past five years. The figures do not relate to overcrowding or homelessness. Page 2

Saudi demand to IMF

Saudi Arabia is thought likely to demand a much bigger say in the International Monetary Fund as the price for making a major contribution to the proposed \$16,000m boost for the fund. Page 23

Church pressure over black miners

Church organizations are expected to increase pressure on British firms with investment in South Africa as a result of The Times report on the grim life of black gold miners. An official of Christian Concern for Southern Africa said yesterday that British companies would be urged to halt all further investment. Page 8

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Help them grow old with dignity

HOME NEWS

Substandard homes decline by two fifths in five years

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The number of substandard dwellings in England and Wales has fallen by more than 40 per cent in the past five years, according to estimates disclosed yesterday for the first time by the Department of the Environment.

The figures are based upon a hitherto unpublished survey carried out by the department last autumn and were given in evidence to a Commons select committee on expenditure. They will come as a distinct surprise to critics of housing policy, although it must be emphasized that they relate only to the physical fabric of buildings and not to questions of overcrowding and homelessness.

Clash over who runs Notting Hill carnival

By Robert Parker

The police and Kensington and Chelsea Council are concerned about the possible effect on this year's Notting Hill Carnival of a bitter division among West Indians about who should run the show.

Last year the carnival, which was attended by about 250,000 people over two days, ended in a riot with serious damage to property and injuries to more than 250 people, including many police.

The carnival is due to take place this year through the streets of Notting Hill on August 28 and 29. But, because of the dispute, there have been no talks about how it should be organized.

Mr Michael Cox, chairman of the council's voluntary organizations' liaison committee, who on Tuesday unsuccessfully tried to reconcile the two groups who claim the right to organize the carnival, said yesterday that he would have liked preparations to have begun last November.

He said: "We are now into May, and as yet there have been no talks. It is really rather disturbing." Mr Cox and the police have offered both groups further talks, on condition that both sides offered constructive suggestions.

The dispute is between the Carnival Development Committee, which has traditionally organized the occasion, and the newly formed Notting Hill Carnival of Arts Committee.

Mr Selwyn Baptiste, a West Indian poet and musician and the director of the Carnival Development Committee, said yesterday that the other committee was trying to make political capital out of the carnival, and turn it in its own political advantage. Its members had no experience of handling the carnival, and should "clear out", he said.

Mr Louis Chese, head of the arts committee, and chairman of the Westminster Community Relations Council, said his com-

mittee's main objective was to take account of the local community's wishes. The committee, he said, was "a decision by local bodies, had come into being because of the lack of organization which led to last year's troubles".

There are many differences between the two committees, but they share the view that there should not be a large number of police at the carnival. Last year about 1,500 police were present, against 60 the year before.

Many people argue that the riot was triggered by the large numbers of police who moved in to arrest pickpockets who were clearly visible in the crowd.

Everybody, including the police, say lessons have been learnt from last year's riot. The three police commanders who have responsibility for this year's carnival are anxious that it should be a happy occasion.

Like the local council, however, they are concerned that there is no body clearly responsible for its organization.

The three officers, Commanders John Thomson, Charles Jackman and Edgar Maybank, are meeting between the two groups. As yet the level of policing at the carnival has not been decided.

Although the police are determined not to be accused again of provoking trouble, it is clear that a visible crime will again not be allowed to pass unchallenged. It is also probable that although police strength will be far less conspicuous than last year.

The only possible solution to the dispute at the moment seems to lie in which committee gets financial support from the Arts Council, the Community Relations Commission, and other official bodies. The Carnival Development Committee says its budget for this year is £99,000, against last year's £10,000. The Carnival of Arts Committee's budget is much less than £99,000.

Within a few hours of the meeting another attempt to frighten bus crews occurred when a car bomb exploded near the central bus depot in Bangor, a predominantly Protestant town on the co. Down coast.

The blast damaged property, but security forces had been alerted and there were no casualties. Earlier the illegal Ulster Freedom Fighters claimed responsibility for the bombing of an engineering factory in east Belfast.

Although the Rev Ian Paisley and Mr Ernest Baird, the two leading members of the Ulster Unionist Action Council, organizers of the strike, have condemned the violence, the

IRA security forces have no doubt that the attacks were the work of loyalist paramilitary groups committed to back the strike.

The recent killings have further weakened the credibility of the strike campaign. It was alleged that Mr John Giddis, the victim of a car bomb planted at a Belfast petrol station, was a member of the Ulster Defence Regiment and the son of one of the Action Council's leaders, Mr Eric Giddis, who represents the Orange Volunteers.

The nine-day blockade of Larne Harbour was broken unexpectedly yesterday when two ferries carrying 500 troops under military guard.

Our Political Staff writes: Northern Ireland's Unionist politicians show no sign of moderating their intransigence about sharing power, despite their rejection of the proposals of Mr Paisley for his efforts to half the province.

The Official Unionists at Westminster, led by Mr James Moynihan and dominated by Mr Enoch Powell, took up a stubborn line as ever yesterday, in advance of Ulster's local elections.

Mr Moynihan compared the behaviour of Mr Paisley with that of the main Roman Catholic Social and Democratic Labour Party. Just as Mr Paisley had involved himself with paramilitary forces, so the SDLP had by taking up the attitudes they had, in effect strengthened the IRA.

Staff who oppose the union plan to seek a High Court injunction next week on the ground of illegal picketing. They complain of abuse, menacing actions and throwing of eggs and stink bombs by the picketers.

Mr Law said yesterday: "Picketing at the Night Out is not unlawful."

Mr Alan Law, regional officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, agreed to meet officials of Trust Houses Forte, which owns the club.

The waitress, who had been trying to recruit other employees into the union, was allegedly dismissed for swearing at a customer.

Sixteen TGWU members came out on strike and have been picketing the club, but 330 other employees stayed at work. Mr Law said yesterday that he would still insist on reinstatement of the waitress.

Mr Law said yesterday: "Picketing at the Night Out is not unlawful."

Phase three rejected by AUEW conference

From Tim Jones
Labour Reporter
Eastbourne

The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers committed itself to a clash with the Government when it decided yesterday to reject a further year of wage restraint. It ignored warnings by Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, that failure to agree on a phase-three pay policy would lead to higher prices, fewer jobs, and less investment for industry.

Delegates to the conference after being told by Mr John Baldwin, general secretary of the construction section, that union leaders were losing their credibility with their members. If there was a phase three, he said, union officials might lose control of their members.

His account of frustration, hostility and hatred by the rank and file was the clearest exposition yet by any union leader of the difficulties of defending the social contract.

Referring to the present pay policy, he said: "We are policing a policy that our people are completely rejecting." Frustrations within the union were such that this week his office in London had been occupied and last month in Scotland, he had been threatened with a knife.

"I can take as much abuse as the next man, but the time must come when enough is enough," he said. "It is not to have your suit ripped, to face open hostility and hatred because you are trying to defend a social contract."

The knife, he said, had been pointed at him by an angry picketer after he had addressed a mass meeting at Highland Fabrication, on the Cromarty Firth. "He showed the knife and screamed 'We'll get you'."

"I am not seeking a free-for-all, but I want to be able to negotiate freely within my industry for what that industry can afford."

The resolution was passed by 51 votes, with 18 abstentions, but it does not necessarily mean that the union is committed to placing its 1,400,000 block vote against any phase three agreement when the matter is discussed by the TUC in September. That is because the dominant engineering section of the union might change its attitude at a meeting, which it may call to review the negotiations between the TUC and the Government.

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Prospects hopeful for deal on 'Express' group

By Sheila Black

Newspapers, which owns the rival *Evening News*. The *News* has a higher sale but higher costs and losses, estimated to be above £4m in the coming year, against £2m for the *Standard*, which has a high advertising revenue.

If all is quiet in Fleet Street, although Sir Max Aitken, chairman of Beaverbrook, is visiting Canada this weekend, rumours are that the *Standard* and *Express* are in discussions about a possible merger.

There is a strong feeling that there might be further alternatives to ensure the financial soundness of all five titles involved (the *Daily Mail* being Associated's profitable daily and a rival to the *Daily Express*).

Such alternatives might be overlooked while those concerned study the smooth operation of the Goldsmith proposals.

If both groups were to get together for discussions that would also include Sir James, there might be much potential for sharing costs, especially in production and distribution, which would benefit both groups and, "that forgotten band, the readers", as an MP anonymously described the mil-

lions of people who buy the newspapers involved and who, he contends, are being treated like a minority group.

It is thus possible that efforts could now be made to ask the Monopolies Commission to suspend any deal for a time to encourage further talks for the health of Fleet Street generally, perhaps even to await study of the East Commission report which is due for publication within two months and will be available to the Government very soon.

While there might be a need for some immediate redundancies, longer-term plans might save further cuts. It is difficult to see how Associated Newspapers could resist Sir James and the Beaverbrook board's approval for his scheme, but there is no doubt that the *Evening News* would then be in danger of closing.

Should the situation involve fighting between Beaverbrook and Associated, the issue becomes very much more one of who will win, and such considerations as keeping newspapers viable may be forgotten.

Fleet Street has got it wrong so often that there is some scepticism about getting it right this time without further exploration of alternatives and cooperation. "Merely winning" no longer matters.

Compulsory redundancies are being resisted as far as possible, although volunteers often tend to leave some production areas dangerously understaffed while bargaining continues in other divisions. If cuts are to continue to be resisted, there is now as much need to consider the possible fate of the *News*, at risk despite the support it receives from its readership, as that of the *Standard* from diversification.

For too long the cry has been for Fleet Street to act. Now there might well be a request for time to stop and think.

Our Business News Staff writes: Associated Newspapers yesterday disclosed that it had bought a further 50,000 ordinary shares in Beaverbrook Newspapers on May 5. That adds to an existing long-standing shareholding of 13,850 ordinary shares and 250,000 shares and leaves Associated with about 7 per cent of the ordinary and just over 2 per cent of the A shares. Since Aitken family interests control most of the voting shares, Associated's holding is more of symbolic than real importance.

Mr Ronald Shields, Associated's managing director, said yesterday that crossed shareholdings were not unusual in the newspaper industry and that "there is nothing of significance to read into this."

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More newspapers still possible, peers told

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent

Lord Gibson, chairman of the Financial Times, and Lord Goodman, former chairman of the Newspaper Publishers Association, said in the Lords last night that the trend of closing newspapers could be reversed if new technology could be introduced and production costs lowered.

They were talking during a debate on trade unions and the freedom of the press in which several peers had given warnings of groups within the National Union of Journalists that were a relatively small group of journeymen, who were struggling to keep their heads above water in a sea of political censorship.

Lord Gibson said he did not want a licensed press with the NUJ issuing licences in the form of union cards. More newspapers needed as an outlet for differing points of view, but there was a long way to go before the present trend could be reversed.

Militancy had gained ground among journalists during the past decade because journalists had not been getting advantages through conformity while their own standard of living fell.

Lord Goodman told the House that free speech replaced almost entirely by journalists and a relatively small group of journeymen, who were struggling to keep their heads above water in a sea of political censorship.

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Early traces of intelligent life at Hampstead

By Philip Howard

Evidence has been discovered of intelligent human life in Hampstead eight millennia before it was previously believed to have arrived in that lofty suburb at any rate by the folk that live there.

An archaeological excavation on Hampstead Heath has uncovered what appears to be the first Mesolithic camp site found in the London area. The site was discovered last year by a number of the London and District Archaeological Society, who stumbled over some worked flints on a path beside the Leg of Mutton Pond at the northern edge of Hampstead Heath. The path led over a slight bluff and was being rapidly eroded.

With the cooperation of the GLC, the Nature Conservancy, and the London Natural History Society, the London Archaeological Society started a rescue dig. Last winter they turned up no fewer than 7,500 man-made flint flakes, of which 74 were recognisably Mesolithic tools. By comparing the types with those from other sites, they can be dated to the early Mesolithic period from about 6,000 to 6,200 BC.

The excavation has also disclosed evidence of fires and hearths indicating some form of crude shelter. Flints have been found in profusion in one place, where they were knapped, and in other places away from the work area, showing that the tools were used.

The picture that is emerging of the first-known inhabitants of the London area is of a small family group with a fire, a wind-break, a place where they ate and knapped flints, and other places where they ate and worked. They were hunter-gatherers from the age before man learnt to farm and make pottery, the latter of which is still a thing of the future.

The soil on the site is very acid, and therefore there is no organic matter left for the archaeologists. However, 300 metres away there is a small bog, where they have sunk a trench and are examining samples, to illuminate the transition from hunting to farming about 6000 BC.

Mr Desmond Collins, director of the excavations, says: "From studying the flints, it is clear that the early Mesolithic people were not just passing through but were staying and working. They were hunter-gatherers from the age before man learnt to farm and make pottery, the latter of which is still a thing of the future."

It is becoming apparent that the flints and tools have been looking down on the muddy swamp of the rest of London for far longer than had previously been supposed.

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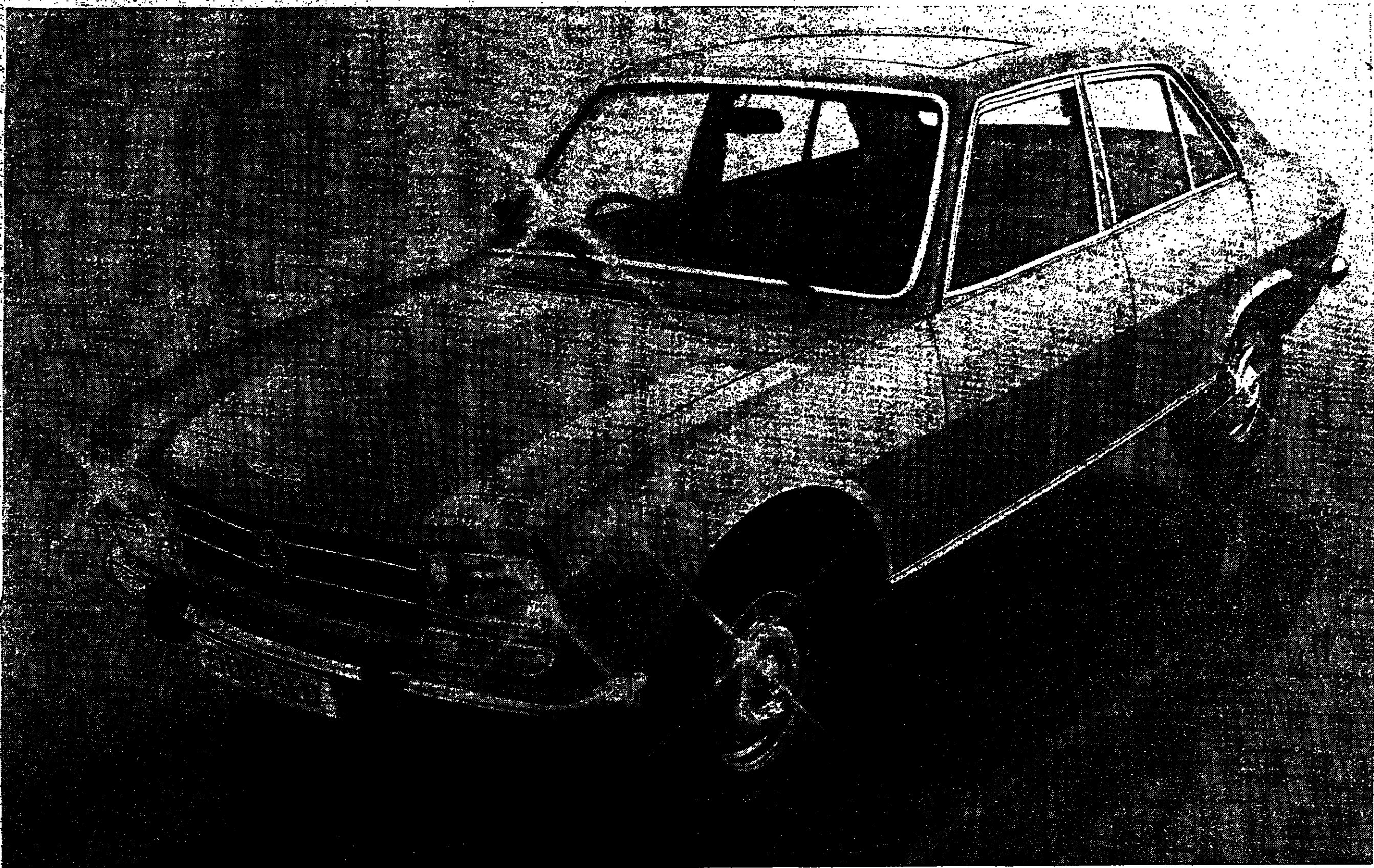
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HOME NEWS

Windscale inquiry a block on £350m Japanese contract

By Pearce Wright

An outline of the case for building the controversial plant for reprocessing nuclear waste at Windscale, Cumbria, was published by British Nuclear Fuels yesterday. It suggests that the equivalent of 35 million tons of coal a year could be recovered by extracting uranium and plutonium from the spent fuel, which would come from Japanese, British and other power stations.

The statement also reveals that a 10-year contract to reprocess 1,600 tonnes of oxide fuel from Japan is ready for signing, as far as technical considerations are concerned. The outstanding issues to prevent completion are clearly the public inquiry into plans for Windscale and the attitude of the American Government, which is involved because the enriched oxide fuel from Japan originated in the United States.

The transfer of the fuel to a third country for reprocessing can be done only with an American licence. Licensing is being examined by a special study group on the nuclear question established by the summit meeting in London last weekend.

The Japanese contract would be worth £200m for reprocessing plus a further £150m for transport. Another 1,600 tonnes would be reprocessed by the British company.

British Nuclear Fuels will provide the transport arrangements for both organisations. An outline of the case for expansion has to be submitted before a public inquiry. British Nuclear Fuels said yesterday that the document had been sent to the Government and individuals who will be opposing the development. The inquiry opens on June 14 at the request of Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The main arguments in support of the scheme are that reprocessing helps energy conservation and provides the best means of isolating long-life radioactive wastes.

Much of the case for expansion focuses on advantages of building a big reprocessing plant to take British and overseas fuel. New plant could not be in operation until the late 1980s, by which time 500 tonnes of oxide fuels from the advanced gas-cooled reactors now coming into operation in the United Kingdom could be expected each year.

Development and design work show, according to British Nuclear Fuels, that capital and operating costs for a plant to reprocess 1,200 tonnes a year would be only a fifth greater than one for 500 tonnes. Hence the conclusion that construction of a 1,200-tonne plant to accept overseas business would be desirable, contributing £600m in the long term to the balance of trade.

It is estimated that the new plant will provide 750 jobs for local people, said, of course, employees for contractors. The case for the opponents of reprocessing plans are among the subjects of a meeting on a non-nuclear world to be held on Saturday.

From John Roger Health Services Correspondent Bournemouth

Surprise was expressed at the conference of the Royal College of Nursing, at Bournemouth yesterday at the recent statement by Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, that there is evidence of increasing cruelty to old people in their own homes.

Such cruelty seems to be increasing, the conference was told. Nurses, particularly health visitors and community nurses, often knew of or suspected incidents, but facts were difficult to establish.

Mr Stanley Holder, a member of the college council, said an independent body should be established to investigate suspected incidents.

Mrs Jean Perrin, a nursing officer from Bournemouth, said a member of the college's Society of Primary Health Care Nursing, said a new pattern of behaviour might be developing. Her district had a population of 65,000, but in the past two months she had been involved in two cases of abuse. One concerned a physically feeble woman of 85, and the other a severely disabled man aged 58.

In 18 years of district nursing, those were the first such cases she had seen.

Mrs Molly Curry, a community nursing sister, of Cleveland, said she had become suspicious of the way a paralysed man of 85 was being treated by his wife. She noticed that his nose was severely abused and considered that it might have been rubbed on a rough carpet.

Elizabeth Hannah, a casualty nurse from Swindon, said doctors were reluctant to believe that incidents of family violence took place. A girl had admitted to nurses that she had kicked her grandmother, who was admitted to hospital with an injury which needed three months' treatment; but it had been difficult to persuade the doctor that the injury was not accidental.

Mrs Margaret Pickett, of Leeds, said mental cruelty, she took place. Children or elderly people were sometimes kept out of the way and not spoken to. Miss Margaret Davis, a health visitor from Gwynedd, said that to free collective bargaining, normally worked a 9-to-5 day, it was difficult to collect evidence of incidents occurring after 5 pm.

Miss Esme Few, of the Society of Primary Health Care

Cruelty to elderly 'is increasing'

Nursing, suggested a 24-hour service by health visitors.

During a debate on the need for nurses trained overseas to have a competent knowledge of English, a hint was given that a language test might be introduced. Miss Catherine Hall, general secretary of the college, said the general nursing council was studying the need for a test in the country of origin of immigrant nurses. A pilot study had been completed.

The conference carried a motion urging Mr Ennals to ensure that all overseas nurses and students employed in the National Health Service should have an adequate knowledge of English.

A wide knowledge of English is particularly important in dealing with psychiatric patients, it was suggested. Nurses were required to do much talking and listening. Knowledge of English, Miss Hall said, was essential for understanding patients.

The meeting discussed the development of policy in preparation for a possible return to free collective bargaining later this year.

Summing up the debate Miss Hall said that members wanted not only restoration of differential, but better differentials, reflecting qualifications.

From Our Correspondent Douglas, Isle of Man

The Isle of Man's defiance of international pressure to make it abolish its birching law was made clear yesterday. It is in the text of a formal resolution to go before Tynwald, the Manx Parliament, on Tuesday.

The resolution takes note of last year's majority decision by the European Commission on Human Rights that birching is in breach of the Convention on Human Rights as a "degrading treatment or punishment", and adds that Tynwald reaffirms its policy to retain birching for crimes of violence as a "desirable safeguard in the control of law and order in this island".

Since the commission's decision the Manx Government has resisted moves by Strasbourg and Whitehall to get a total ban on birching. As a result, formal charges are to be laid before the European Court of Human Rights, which will be answered by the British Government as signatory to the Convention on Human Rights on behalf of the island.

The resolution may embarrass Britain, which was asked Strasbourg to try to achieve an amicable settlement by getting the Manx Parliament to abolish birching. It calls on the British Government to uphold Tynwald's policy in the international court and get a reversal of the European commission's condemnation of birching.

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Widener's ferry service will not operate over the Spring Bank Holiday or silver jubilee period. The boat is being examined for structural defects.

Busmen strike

Bus services between Nottingham and Derby were disrupted yesterday when 200 busmen employed by the Trent company went on strike over the dismissal of a workmate.

Council house sales Nottingham City Council is receiving a thousand inquiries every week after announcing council houses for sale at between £4,400 and £12,000.

Jubilee lifeboat

Eastbourne has been allocated a new lifeboat as part of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's celebrations for the silver jubilee.

Sentence on Fittleton commander quashed

By Arthur Reed

The conviction of Lieutenant-Commander Peter Paget, commander of the minesweeper Fittleton, which sank last September with the loss of 12 lives, was quashed yesterday by the Royal Navy court martial in the North Sea. Commander Paget was found guilty of one charge of negligence. The sentence of a reprimand was the lightest one possible.

On three other charges of negligence, including the most serious one of allowing his ship to be lost, he was found not guilty.

Commander Paget, aged 44, who works in a London ship-ping office, was found guilty of hazarding his ship because of his negligence in failing to reduce speed drastically and then moving away in small steps to extricate the Fittleton from a dangerous position alongside the Mermid.

In law, if the bag and spray had been taken without force it would have been lawful for the police to retain them. But the court would conclude that the taking of the bag was unlawful if it was by force. She was not under arrest at the time her bag was searched and there was no justification

WPC Evans came to the car and asked: "What's that?" and she replied that it was a breath freshener, but the policeman opened the car door and tried to get her handbag.

Miss Adey-Jones said the officer held her wrists tightly and in order to make her let go she peeled back her fingers. She also pleaded with her and a police constable to let go. Then she lashed out and kicked PC Avery between the legs.

She had been alleged that Miss Adey-Jones had kicked PC Avery by kicking him. But Judge David, QC, said the incident arose from the snatching of the handbag containing the spray.

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Woman says PC slapped her face

Sian Adey-Jones, a former beauty queen, told a court yesterday that a policeman called her "a little cow" and slapped her face.

Miss Adey-Jones, aged 19, who held the title of Miss Wales until last month, was giving evidence at Mold Crown Court. Earlier the judge said he would direct the jury to dismiss one of the charges against her, of assaulting Police Constable Colin Avery. But she still faces a charge of assaulting Woman Police Constable Patricia Evans.

The alleged offence arose from incidents at Colwyn Bay in November last, when Miss Adey-Jones's friend, Mr Stephen Cryer, was arrested for refusing to take a breath test. She said that two months earlier she had had 95 stitches in her face and plastic surgery after being injured in a road accident.

Her face was still sensitive the night she and Mr Cryer went to a reception. She had three glasses of wine there and on the way home her friend's car was stopped by the police.

She said Mr Cryer went to the police car, returned to his own car, put his head through the window and said: "Give me a kiss." Because he had been eating garlic sausage and onions she sprayed him with a mint-breath freshener carried.

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هكذا من الناحية

HOME NEWS

Total of prisoners granted parole is equal to the population of six large jails

Prisoners granted parole last year rose in the number to 1,157, according to the Home Office. The parole board, which is made up of judges, magistrates and lay members, has the power to grant parole to prisoners who are not yet sentenced to life imprisonment. The parole board's decision is based on the prisoner's conduct in prison, the nature of the offence, and the likelihood of the prisoner's re-offending. The parole board's decision is based on the prisoner's conduct in prison, the nature of the offence, and the likelihood of the prisoner's re-offending.

PAROLE, ENGLAND AND WALES, 1968-1976				
Year	Total eligible	Released	Opted out	Recall
1968	40,667	1,157	810	NA
1969	42,278	1,835	480	93
1970	44,454	2,210	641	138
1971	46,368	2,871	735	227
1972	48,644	3,928	710	237
1973	50,814	5,344	768	252
1974	52,981	6,507	804	270
1975	55,148	7,622	899	311
1976	57,315	8,737	983	394

Figures include backlog of prisoners who became eligible in April 1, 1968. The parole board's decision is based on the prisoner's conduct in prison, the nature of the offence, and the likelihood of the prisoner's re-offending. The parole board's decision is based on the prisoner's conduct in prison, the nature of the offence, and the likelihood of the prisoner's re-offending.

could be given a better, if still fairly general, idea. The question remains whether it would be advisable to do so, and on that the board is divided. For such a scheme would have to be applied in all cases or none. One consideration is that some men would find it difficult to face the real reasons for refusal of parole. There is also the possibility that relations with staff might be harmed. Prisoners released on parole have included Anna Mendlesohn and Hilary Creek, two members of the Angry Brigade. Apart from an assessment that they would be unlikely to get into the same kind of trouble again, the board was aware that they would have spent more than five years in prison, taking into account the time in custody before conviction. Early release plan: The Home Secretary was urged yesterday to reconsider his decision not to introduce an early release scheme for short-term prisoners (the Press Association reports). Mr Nicholas Hinton, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, told a conference at Cambridge that such a scheme could significantly reduce prison overcrowding, especially in local prisons, where the problems were most severe. "Mr. Maryn Rees has now been Home Secretary for eight months, but as yet he has announced no measures to deal with the dire state of our prisons," Mr. Hinton said. "It was hardly surprising that prison and borstal governors had called for urgent action to reduce the prison population."

Writers seek Callaghan help on lending right

By Our Arts Reporter. The Prime Minister is to meet a group of writers today to discuss the public lending right—a payment to writers to compensate for the use of their books in public libraries. The group, which will include Mr. Kingsley Amis, Miss Maureen Duffy and Miss Brigid Brophy, are to ask for Mr. Callaghan's intervention to secure the passage of Lord Williams's Bill, passed by the House of Lords in March and still waiting to be introduced in the Commons. It is believed to be the first time a British Prime Minister will have received a representative group of writers. The members of the party will be Miss Elizabeth Jane Howard, Mr. Frank Muir, Lord Willis and Mr. Angus Wilson (Writers Guild of Great Britain); Lady Antonia Fraser and Mr. Francis King (Society of Authors); and Dame Veronica Wedgwood (PEN Club). A government measure to introduce PLR was lost last session by a filibuster of eight MPs. The writers will ask Mr. Callaghan to confirm the Government's commitment to the Bill, which has all-party support, against a repetition of such wrecking tactics.

Investigation of bacon profits ordered

By Hugh Croyton. Ministers ordered an investigation into bacon profits yesterday and rebuked potato growers who have complained about inadequate price support. Mr. Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told the Price Commission to examine bacon prices and ensure that shoppers were not being exploited. Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, told Mr. Geoffrey Grantham, chairman of the Potato Marketing Board, that growers had made very high profits. The ministers' statements worsened their relations with the food industry, which is dissatisfied with the farm price review and bitter about the Price Commission's on Bill. Mr. Hattersley made his announcement without first telling traders. He said in a Commons written reply: "I am concerned that consumers should benefit from the fall in wholesale bacon prices." He ordered the investigation after witnessing public acrimony between sections of the trade about profits. The wholesale price of sides of bacon fluctuates constantly. In March the British wholesale price was £365 a ton, compared with £330 in February, 1976. Yet the ranges of shop prices quoted for each month in government figures were almost identical. The Retail Consortium said there was no exorbitant profit in shops. The United Kingdom Provision Trade Federation, which represents suppliers of imported bacon, said: "Our members have absolutely nothing to fear, because on the import side there is red-hot competition." Most bacon eaten in Britain is imported. Mr. Silkin's rebuke about potatoes was exceptional because marketing boards are statutory bodies whose members are appointed by ministers. Mr. Grantham publicly challenged Mr. Silkin after the farm price review to justify the "potato" potato guarantee of £46.50 a ton. Mr. Silkin said the guarantee was realistic because "potato growers in the last two seasons received market prices far in excess of average production costs, and the industry as a whole has made very large profits from which to finance this year's high seed prices." The board said yesterday: "We are arguing not about the last two crops, but about the future crop." Food traders have often been told by Mr. Silkin that excessive prices will cut consumption. Bacon and potatoes have suffered some of the sharpest price rises and cuts in consumption of any food in Britain in the 1970s.

Dismissal of engineer who wrote letter not unfair

An attempt by Mr. Stephen Thornley, an aircraft research engineer, to establish that he was dismissed unfairly because of newspaper disclosures criticizing alleged weaknesses in Britain's multi-role combat aircraft was rejected by the Employment Appeal Tribunal in London yesterday. Mr. Thornley, of Nighthall Avenue, Bedford, was dismissed by the Aircraft Research Association after The Guardian had published his letter criticizing the project with which he had been concerned. His letter was written after he had disputed being moved to another project. Mr. Justice Killeen Brown, presiding at the tribunal, said the effect of the letter was to denigrate a project his employers were hoping to sell. That denigration was being done by an employee on which the association was entitled to rely for support in the sale of the project. "Once a man is prepared to be a martyr to the executioner's axe and that axe terminates his existence, he cannot afterwards complain," the judge said. History showed that many men went to the stake thinking they were right, but they went to the stake nevertheless, he added.

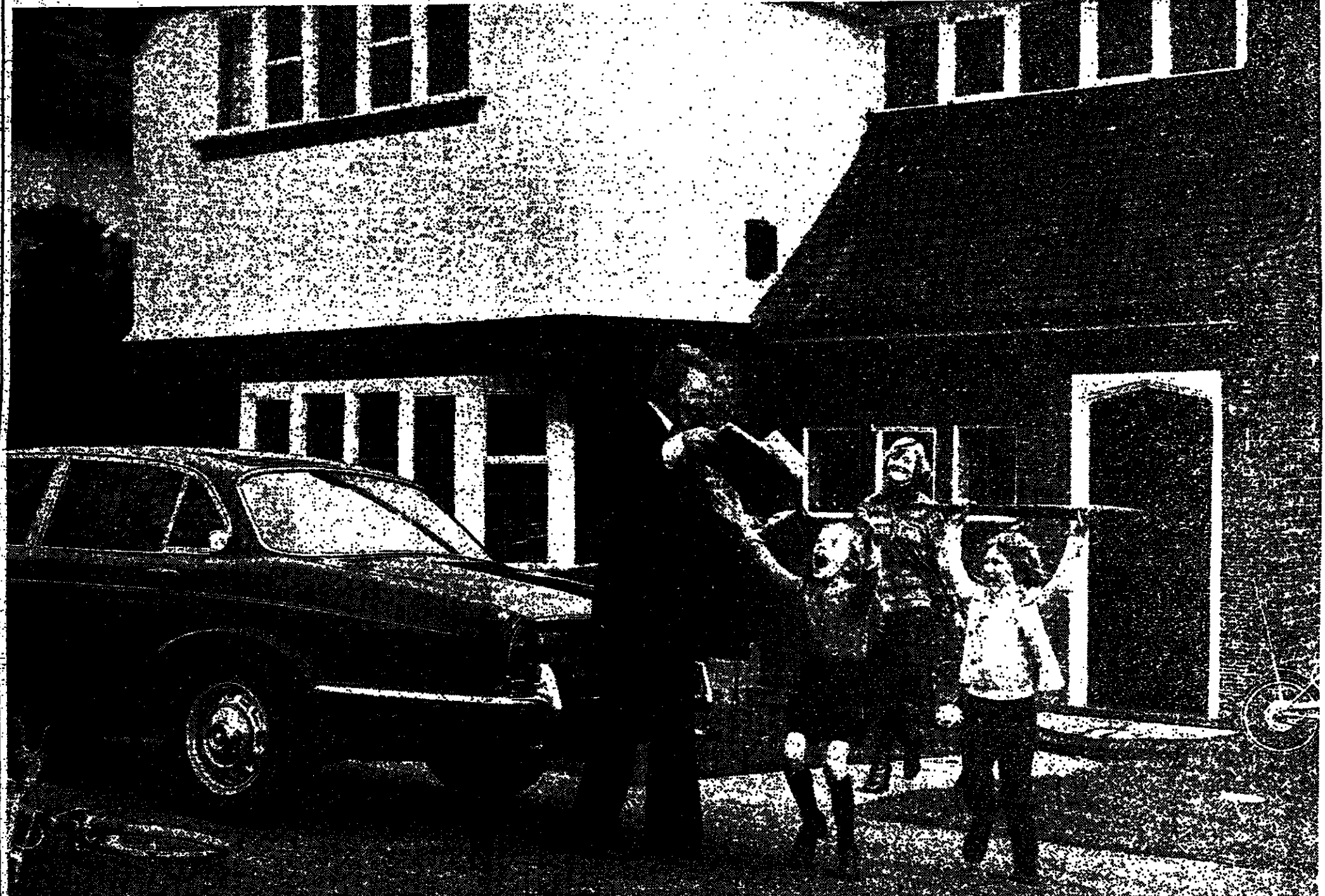
First winner of council lottery

Mr. Ian Bell, aged 19, yesterday became the first person to win a local authority lottery since that form of council money-raising was made legal. He won £1,000 in a draw organized by Chester-le-Street district council in Durham. The council will make more than £1,000.

Treasures found
More than half the treasures stolen from Lord Scarsdale's museum at Kedleston Hall, near Derby, last month have been recovered by the police.

Benefits tribunal rules woman not cohabiting

Par Healy, Social Services Correspondent. A child-benefit tribunal ruled yesterday that a divorced woman was entitled to receive benefit, which three months had refused because, it alleged, she was cohabiting. The Child Poverty Action Group, which represented the woman, is considering whether to challenge previous decisions against her. The tribunal decided yesterday that the woman, who lives in Ipswich, need not repay £33 child interim benefit, received between April and September last year. The department of Health and Social Security demanded the money back on the ground that she was cohabiting at the time and therefore not entitled to the benefit. At the tribunal yesterday, however, the department's own assessing officer suggested that previous decisions were mistaken. The man concerned had been living in the woman's house as a lodger, paying £10 a week. Three years ago her husband, 47, and their two children, aged seven and nine, had moved to a new home. Her husband's brother, then homeless and unemployed, moved into the marital home. On three occasions the woman was denied supplementary benefit of the kind that she was cohabiting with her brother-in-law.

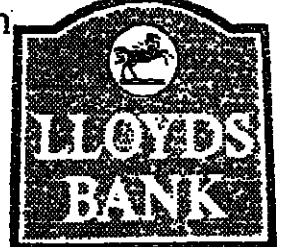


Families on average wages being pushed into debt

Our Social Services Correspondent. The first of a series of "debt counselling" workshops was held in London yesterday by the Newham Rights Centre, which says that debts are now commonest difficulty facing poor. The workshop attracted 30 social workers, citizens' advice bureau staff and welfare workers. Inflation, wage restraint and unemployment have combined to push families into debt, the centre says in a new booklet dealing with the financial difficulties of people with low incomes. Three years ago acute financial difficulties were experienced only by people on supplementary benefit, the booklet says. Now, however, the booklet says, the need for advice on such difficulties are employed people on low wages. For example, a London dockworker earning £55 a week gross for a 40-hour week with no opportunity to increase his income over £24 a week net after paying his rent, rates, fuel, and other expenses. That has to pay for food for his family, clothes, school goods and holidays. Like millions of other workers...

Are you worth as much to your family as you are to your company?

The trouble with making it in business is that as you get more money you don't get more time. Time to spend with the many different financial specialists who could make your money work for you—and safeguard your family's future. While you're waiting around in airports or fighting the clock on the M1, you may think about your wife and children, but you can't do much for them. Lloyds Bank can help. Behind every Lloyds bank manager lie the resources and skills of Lloyds Bank Trust Division—a single, specialist department with branches round the country which could handle all aspects of your personal finance. We could help you invest some of your hard-earned salary in ways that could reduce your top rate of tax. Handle your annual tax affairs—and argue your case. Tell you how you might be affected by Capital Transfer Tax and how to avoid its worst effects. Ensure that your insurance policies really meet your needs—and your family's. Act as executors of your estate so that your family is properly looked after if anything happens to you. Help you invest your savings as wisely as possible. Visit your Lloyds Bank manager and find out how much more you could be worth to your family.



Money comes to life at the sign of the Black Horse

Journalists form moderate group to oppose left

Our Labour Editor. A pressure group of moderate journalists was launched in late last night in an attempt to counter a Westminster public use. The meeting was convened by Mr. Christopher Whitfield, Times-Herald Newspapers, a group of weekly papers, at 10, Dorset, after telephone calls to selected officials of the Journalists' Union of Great Britain were thought to have sparked a campaign to reverse what was seen as a shift to the left of the union's policies. The writer invitation to the meeting told attendees to set out for the NUI meeting, Mr. Whitfield personally said: "There will be no publicity for this first meeting."

City tries to allay York Festival fears

By Kenneth Gosling. Fears expressed by distinguished musicians about the future of the York Festival and mystery plays were dismissed yesterday by Mr. R. Howell, the city's chief executive and town clerk. He said: "It is not our intention to cease having a Festival. But there will be a wider gap between the festivals, which have mainly been triennial. The next festival was due in 1979 but it has been postponed until 1980 because of local government spending cuts. Mr. Howell said the suggestion that the festival should be a full festival, including mystery plays, at five-yearly intervals. Thereafter, with intermediate events devoted to music."

HOME NEWS

Kirk report urges early devolution referendum

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

A call for a referendum followed by quick action on Scottish devolution is to be made to the General Assembly to the Church of Scotland, which opens on May 24.

A report by the church and nation committee, published yesterday, said the failure of the Government's guillotine motion in the Commons raised serious difficulties. All four main parties in the last general election had promised some kind of Scottish parliament with greater or lesser powers. It seemed clear that, no matter how the Scottish electorate voted, the setting up of a Scottish legislature depended on enough English, Welsh and Irish MPs supporting their Scottish colleagues.

Statements that such a constitutional change in the government of the United Kingdom must be rushed, and that there ought to be adequate consultation, sounded reasonable, except that self-government had been seriously discussed in Scotland for decades. "It is not the fault of the Scottish electorate that many non-Scottish MPs have been uninterested in what was happening in Scotland. It is unjust to claim that devolution has suddenly been foisted upon them. This is not so," the report stated.

For the future of Scotland and the United Kingdom, it was vital that an effective new initiative should be taken, it added. Otherwise there was the danger that bitterness and frustration would increase. As the Kilbrann Commission had stated, "there are some substantial and persistent causes of discontent which may contain the seeds of more serious trouble".

Football club theft

Gerald Albert Halsey, aged 35, of Merrow Woods, Guildford, Surrey who was catering manager of Chelsea Football Club, was fined £100 at Hove Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday, for stealing a £400 ice-making machine from the ground.

Gypsy site study

A tour of gypsy sites will be made on Monday by Mr Marks, Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment. He will visit authorized and unauthorized caravan sites at Oldham, Preston and Liverpool.

Tories' Perth agenda cool on devolution

The Scottish Conservatives begin their annual conference in Perth today cooler than ever towards devolution, and with an agenda containing more resolutions opposing a Scottish assembly or complaining of the dangers of separatism.

The debate this afternoon will focus on a motion welcoming the Commons action in preventing the enactment of the Scotland and Wales Bill without adequate discussion. It calls for a "searching re-examination" of the entire structure of government as the basis of fresh proposals for effective devolution.

To pro-devolution Tories, the selection of this motion from a list of 52, some of them enthusiastically in favour of setting up a directly elected Scottish assembly, signals that the party leadership is being applied and that the Tory appetite for devolution has increased little since Mr Heath's famous declaration made in Perth in 1968.

Mr Edward Taylor, Conservative MP for Glasgow, Cathcart, may be finding it difficult to conceal his own strong distaste for devolution beneath his mantle as opposition spokesman on Scottish affairs, and Mrs Thatcher has not emerged as one to press any measure that a substantial number of Tories believe could damage the unity of Britain.

Mr Taylor has admitted that anyone seeking a cast-iron commitment to a set of proposals on the Scottish assembly would not be happy with the motion, but he believed it was the one that came closest to the views of the party in Scotland.

The reply to the debate will be given by Mr Francis Pym, opposition spokesman on devolution and House of Commons affairs, who recently called for all-party talks on the subject without preconditions or pre-conceptions. As the Perth delegates are likely to find, no preconditions may be possible, but not to expect preconditions, in the Scottish political climate is to demand the moon.

The conference will end on Saturday with a rally addressed by Mrs Thatcher. Earlier that day a private session will consider the Fairgrieve report on party organization. It proposes that full administrative, organizational and financial control of the central office in Edinburgh should be transferred to the Scottish director of organization, who would work directly with Central Office in London.

The Conservative board of finance's activities in Scotland would be executive controlled by the treasurer's department in Smith Square.

Attempt to placate inshore fishermen on safety rules

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The Department of Trade is considering an instalment payment system for inshore fishermen who complain that the cost of safety surveys is too high.

Mr Clinton Davis, Under-Secretary of State for Trade, who is responsible for the new safety regulations, which have brought complaints from owners of smaller boats around the United Kingdom, announced that when a Commons committee considered and approved orders relating to the regulations yesterday.

Conservative MPs said the Government's approach was as bureaucratic. Mr Patrick Wall (Hampshire) said they had considered expressing their misgivings in a vote, but had decided that it would be wrong to vote against safety regulations.

Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith (Angus, North and Mearns) said fishermen could not understand why an insurance sur-

vey, which would be cheaper, was not regarded as sufficient for smaller vessels.

The minister said he was anxious to see fishermen's vessels should be prevented from fishing unless it was obvious that the risk run was unwarranted. "I do not believe it is right that a palpably unsafe vessel should put to sea. I do not know whether some MPs believe that is an appalling incursion of bureaucracy, but that is the stand I take."

He said he had invited representatives of the fishing industry to see him next week, to discuss their difficulties. He would then decide whether any modifications in the arrangements should be considered.

It is understood that the meeting, with representatives from various inshore fishermen's organizations, will probably be held in London next Wednesday, to be followed later by a meeting between Mr Davis and his 17 fishing vessel surveyors.

Historic art rooms to open for jubilee

By Philip Howard

The Fine Rooms on the second floor of Somerset House are about to be reopened to the public after a lapse of a century and a half, having been lovingly and handsomely restored to Chambers's original design by the Department of the Environment.

The Fine Rooms on the first floor, including the Royal Academy's Antique Academy and Assembly Room, were restored and reopened in 1974, and first used for the Churchill centenary exhibition. The rooms on the second floor include the Great Room, where the academy held its exhibitions, an ante-room, and a room for the School of Painting.

The Great Room, familiar from paintings, is in the centre of the second floor of the Strand range, higher than the other rooms, with four large semicircular windows high up and a ceiling painted like a blue sky with clouds.

For the first time since 1836, the rooms will be reopened and reborn with paintings in July for the silver jubilee exhibition, "London and the Thames" mounted by the National Maritime Museum on behalf of the Department of the Environment.

The Strand Block of Somerset House, completed by 1780, was arranged to house the Royal Academy, the Royal Society, and the Society of Antiquaries. Care was taken over the design both externally and internally.

The external sculpture was designed by G. B. Cipriani. Sir William Chambers himself designed the internal plasterwork, which was executed by Collins, John Papworth, and Thomas Clarke. The carving was done by Richard Lawrence and Sefferin Aiken.

During the restoration Mr Harold Vexley, senior architect with the Department of the Environment's historic buildings and monuments division, and his colleagues rediscovered a forgotten, pretty little basement at the foot of the western circular staircase. The Royal Academy had roofed it over to provide a stand for a vast statue. Chambers called it the Doric Vestibule. It is a sort of dolls' house on which he played variations on the theme of the Strand front of his building, an old provides delightful



Sir John Betjeman, the poet Laureate, and Lady Ricks, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, looking at the restored Great Room at Somerset House.

changes of perspective on the long ascent up the stairs.

Sir Joshua Reynolds, addressing the first Royal Academy school class in 1780, said: "This building in which we are now assembled will remain in many future ages an illustrious specimen of the architect's abilities. It is our duty to

Bus subsidies to small private firms opposed

From Our Correspondent, Oxford

Oxfordshire County Council, which uses its bus subsidies to back small private rural firms rather than a National Bus Company subsidiary, has had that policy rejected by the traffic commissioners.

The commissioners question whether the council is properly fulfilling its job of co-ordinating local transport. They decided to accept all the proposals for the reorganization of services run by the Oxford South and Midlands Bus Company and to reject those submitted by private firms.

The commissioners say in a report that the council's policy of extended school contracts, under which it offers subsidies to operators as an incentive to run school services cheaply in rural areas, has led to potential subsidies of up to £234,000 for private operators.

Both management and union in these large nationalized bus operating companies, and indeed the Government itself, would do well to ponder the implications of the massive public support of small private operators in rural areas which has been revealed in the course of this inquiry," the report says.

The commissioners say the school contracts subsidy, which is intended for main bus routes to be spent on providing school buses, a charge that should be part of the education budget. They suggest that the practice might have been continued without an increased bus subsidy, but with a host of other services provided, all to the benefit of different operators.

The objective of the existing legislation would have been defeated and the county would have returned to a concept of passenger transport by road considered to have been obsolete since 1930.

The long-term planning of buses that would be impossible and it was therefore understandable that the public company felt unable to accept subsidy on the basis of extended school contracts, the report adds.

"The drastic changes of transport policy adopted by Oxfordshire County Council between 1974 and 1976 appear to have been carried through with little or no regard for the impact of these policies on the operation of the company."

Brigadier Roger Sarsfield, chairman of the county council bus subsidies working party until last week, said yesterday: "I should be surprised if there is any change in the county's policy."

"There is a reluctance to pay subsidies to any operator who does not demand them as bulk subsidies. I think that in this case the law is an ass."

Store's 'five-shilling' lunch attracts 300 customers

By Penny Symon

In the midst of the profit-making season, a restaurant decorated with jubilee flags and the sound of military music echoing round the walls, the customers, accompanied by their wives and children, stood out like a ray of sunshine.

Three hundred people sat down to a three-course lunch in the restaurant of the Army and Navy Stores and it cost them only 25p each.

The store decided on the "five-shilling" lunch as a jubilee gesture, rather than to make a profit. An advertisement was placed in a local newspaper inviting people to look back 25 years and consume soup or fruit juice, roast beef and two vegetables, roll and butter, apple tart and cream and coffee for the special price.

The restaurant was fully booked by 9.30 on the morning that the advertisement appeared.

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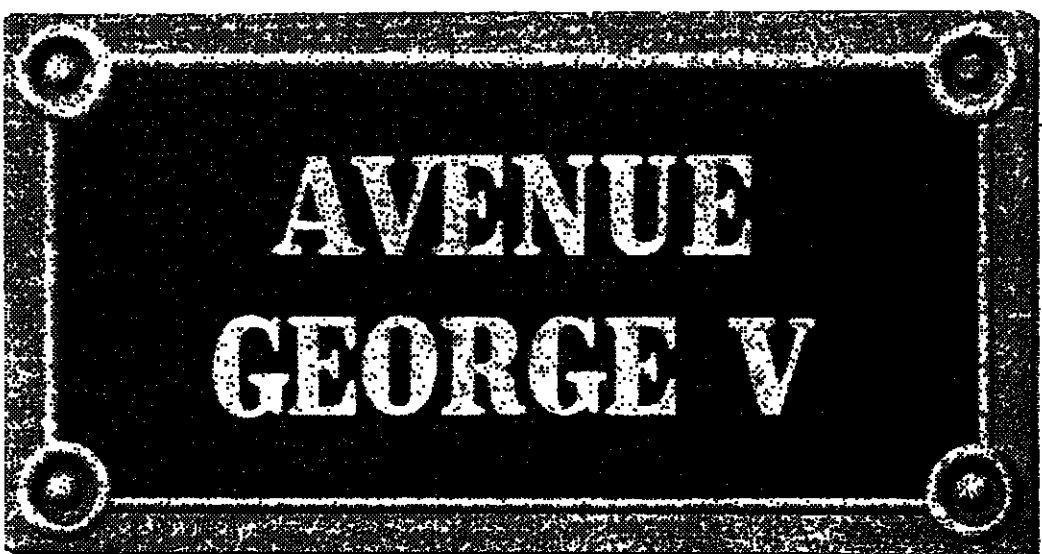
Yesterday with the restaurant decorated with jubilee flags and the sound of military music echoing round the walls, the customers, accompanied by their wives and children, stood out like a ray of sunshine.

Three hundred people sat down to a three-course lunch in the restaurant of the Army and Navy Stores and it cost them only 25p each.

The store decided on the "five-shilling" lunch as a jubilee gesture, rather than to make a profit. An advertisement was placed in a local newspaper inviting people to look back 25 years and consume soup or fruit juice, roast beef and two vegetables, roll and butter, apple tart and cream and coffee for the special price.

The restaurant was fully booked by 9.30 on the morning that the advertisement appeared.

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BANCO DO BRASIL

Private water companies and regional authorities are fighting for survival

By John Young, Planning Reporter

Members of the Commons select committee on the nationalized industries begin a three-day visit to the North of England next Monday to examine the operation of the British Waterways Board.

The visit comes only about a month before the expected publication of a White Paper on the further reorganization of the water industry, which is likely to recommend that the board should be merged in a new national water authority.

Responsibility for the future of the waterways, however, is only one of several controversial issues. Since publication of the Government's consultative document in March last year, dispute has been expressed in several quarters at the proposal for a strong central body to assume some of the powers of regional authorities, and the projected takeover of the remaining 28 private water companies.

One important but less provocative suggestion in the consultative document, namely the equalization of water charges over the country as a whole, has already been rejected by a government-appointed group of scientists, the Food Standards Committee, to study the term "digestive biscuit", which has been used since the reign of Queen Victoria. The committee is to decide whether the term should be banned on the ground that it implies that the biscuit eats itself.

A call by the standards committee for a ban was rejected by ministers in 1966. Its report, *Claims and Misleading Des-*

criptions, said then that "the word 'digestive' denotes self-digestibility".

Professor Alan Ward, chairman of the committee, then and now, said yesterday that the question was being examined again under a review of food labels.

Lord Monistone, a director of the Cake & Biscuit Alliance, said: "Digestive came up as one of many names for a type of biscuit in the last century. It is a very good name. Although the biscuit does not improve digestion, it does slip down easily if you have weak teeth."

Leading article, page 19

ment, it does not appear to have had any second thoughts.

The need for a central body to coordinate planning and investment and to increase water supplies on a national basis was strongly urged during last summer's drought. Now that the threat of shortages has for the time being disappeared, the regional authorities are in a better position to fight for their continued autonomy.

Needless to say, the private water companies, which still supply 19 per cent of the total area of England and Wales with a population of 12,500,000 are fighting for survival. They point out that as they are statutory undertakings, their financial returns are strictly controlled, and that their efficiency is widely acknowledged. They argue that nationalization would increase the burden on public expenditure and damage the interests of consumers.

Much may depend upon the attitude of Liberal MP, Mr Michael McNair-Wilson, Conservative MP for Newbury, who has taken up the companies' case in the Commons, is confident that the Liberals will not support any form of nationalization.

The Government continues to insist that the companies' continued existence is an anachronism. In the consultative document it was said that the Labour Party maintained that the present arrangement was wrong in principle and anomalous in practice.

Fragmentation of responsibility is also the main reason why the Government favours some reorganization of the waterways administration. At present the waterways board is responsible for about 1,500 miles of navigable rivers, including the non-tidal Thames, are controlled by regional water authorities; and another 500 miles come under a variety of bodies, including local authorities and charitable trusts.

The Government believes there is a strong case for bringing all of them under a new navigational authority which would issue single licences to operators and draw up standardized charges. Since many of the canals and rivers also form an integral part of the water supply, it would be in everyone's interest to combine responsibility for both functions.

Waterway enthusiasts disagree. They fear that amateur considerations would be pushed into the background and that the historical significance would remove any last hope of reviving the commercial use of the waterways.

The digestive biscuit faces a new threat to its name

By Hugh Clayton

Britain's biscuit makers, who were unscathed by EEC Commission attacks on such traditional names as "cream cracker" face a home-produced threat to their nomenclature. A government-appointed group of scientists, the Food Standards Committee, is to study the term "digestive biscuit", which has been used since the reign of Queen Victoria. The committee is to decide whether the term should be banned on the ground that it implies that the biscuit eats itself.

A call by the standards committee for a ban was rejected by ministers in 1966. Its report, *Claims and Misleading Des-*

Satellites may aid sea pollution study

By John Chatterton

A research team at Lancaster University is developing techniques that may enable pollution in the North Sea to be monitored by using photographs taken from satellites.

The study is aimed at developing ways of identifying oil and other surface and coastal pollution to replace the present costly and slow methods of taking measurements from ships.

During their researches the scientists will monitor surface pollution over large areas of the North Sea and Irish Sea.

The programme, which is supported by a £27,000 grant from the Department of Industry, is being carried out by Dr Gilbert Fielder, reader in the lunar and planetary unit of the department of environmental sciences, and by Dr Duncan Telfer, research associate.

Dr Fielder said yesterday: "Oil pollution of the sea around our shores is increasing. The huge slick caused by the Bravo blowout has brought the question of serious pollution to our attention once again. The object of our research is to find a quick and efficient method of scanning large areas of the sea's surface so that pollution can be identified and dealt with."

The study will develop techniques to analyse infrared satellite pictures so that small variations in temperature on the sea's surface can be identified and estimated.

Dentist 'rolled on floor' with girl of 16

A dentist told a girl of 16, a former patient of his, that he was rolling on the floor with her, and asked her to tell him she was boss. The disciplinary Committee of the General Dental Council was told yesterday.

Det Sergeant David Crosby said Mr Ivor Rosenberg, the dentist, also rolled around on the floor with the girl, whom he had invited to train as his nurse. They hand-wrestled to prove that she had the strength to handle patients coming out of anaesthetics, he said.

Sergeant Crosby told the committee that Mr Rosenberg invited the girl to spend the weekend at Blackpool.

Mr Paul Honigsmann, for the committee, said that after the incident Mr Rosenberg drove the girl home and gave her £5. He asked her not to say anything to anyone, but she told a friend's mother and the police were informed.

Mr Adrian Whitfield, for Mr Rosenberg, produced a petition signed by 500 patients, and said the incident had been out of character.

Mr Rosenberg, of Castle Hill Road, Prestwich, Greater Manchester, told the committee that his activities with the girl were horseplay.

WEST EUROPE

Communists' attempt to put a price tag on cost of left's programme is boon to Government

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, May 11 — The Communists' Party's attempt to put a price tag on the cost of the implementation of its common programme published over a whole page in the party newspaper 'L'Humanité' yesterday, is both a political and a tactical move. It is not by accident that they passed this bomb into the political arena on the eve of the much publicized television debate between M. Barre, the Prime Minister, and M. François Mitterrand, which has had a jolting effect on the political scene. It is also not by accident that the Communists are trying to make a little too obviously, and that they are being left in the lurch by the Government's move of restoring the balance between themselves and the Socialists.

The manoeuvre is so insidious that it has caused a jump in the conclusion that the days of the Union of the Left are numbered and that the next 10 months its dissolution will come as a surprise. This is hardly likely, for the whole strategy of the Communists in recent months has

been to put their heads down and avoid anything which might prejudice the chances of the left coming to power.

What hurts the Socialists just as surely damages them, unless they feel that the wind of change is blowing so strongly in favour of the left at present that they can afford to take their foot off the gas, and ensure that they are more favourably placed when the parliamentary elections come.

In fact, the Communists have tried to kill two birds with one stone: to improve their standing in the eyes of left-wing voters as the most efficient defenders of their interests; and to impress public opinion with a paradoxical though it may seem in the light of the figures—their sense of responsibility. This is the reply to the charge, frequently levelled against them in the past, that they always make promises without counting the cost.

Now they propose to show that the social and other benefits of the common programme will bring a perfectly attainable, in financial terms, though of course at the price of giving France a Marxist-type economic structure, and unleashing a formidable industrialist pressure.

It will be child's play for M. Barre to demolish this exercise in the Communist's attempt to account for the cost of the common programme, which have not been commensurate with the exercise officially.

The total bill for the implementation of this Communist

version of the common programme of the left over three years would be in the region of 400,000 francs (£50,000) or more than the present budget.

The total wage bill would increase by some 313,000 francs, and the state's share by 54,000 francs, partly in the form of wage increases, partly of improved benefits.

The state budget would increase by some 50 per cent, while industrial firms, whose prices will be blocked and taxes increased steeply, would be asked to raise wages and provide an additional 120,000 jobs between now and 1982.

He will inform the Spanish Government of what was discussed at the Nato summit meeting in London this week. The United States wishes to strengthen the Nato organization, and Mr Vance's visit to Madrid is seen in this context.

The United States is very interested, for strategic reasons, in Spain eventually joining Nato. But Spain will not make any application to join either Nato or the European Community until some time after the general elections in June.

The extreme left-wing organization, FRAP (Anti-Fascist Revolutionary Patriotic Front) claimed responsibility today for the murder of an industrialist who died in Monday when a bomb strapped to his chest exploded. This was the first act of violence for which Frap has claimed responsibility for some time; and it caused speculation that extremists might try to disrupt the elections.

More than a thousand Falangists attended the funeral today in Toledo for the victim of another political killing who died on Monday night, of stab wounds.

Vance talks in Madrid to focus on Nato

From William Chislett
Madrid, May 11
Mr Cyrus Vance, the United States Secretary of State, who arrived in Madrid this evening to preside over the first meeting of the Spanish-American committee set up after the treaty of friendship and cooperation was signed last year between the two countries.

He will inform the Spanish Government of what was discussed at the Nato summit meeting in London this week. The United States wishes to strengthen the Nato organization, and Mr Vance's visit to Madrid is seen in this context.

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Brussels rejects changes in fishing policy and takes Ireland to court over ban

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, May 11
Britain's hopes of getting the EEC to approve wide coastal belts reserved exclusively for local fishermen were dealt a new blow here today when the European Commission decided against any significant modification of the proposals for revision of the common fisheries policy first unveiled last autumn.

These proposals, rejected at the time as "wholly unacceptable" by the British Government, would restrict exclusive fishing rights to a 12-mile band round the coastlines of member states.

Both Britain and Ireland have

said they want exclusive zones up to 50 miles wide.

In a related move, Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the Commission, and his 12 colleagues also decided to take the Irish Government to the European Court of Justice for refusing to lift unilaterally imposed fishing restrictions.

The court will also be asked to grant an interim injunction requiring Ireland to remove the restrictions forthwith pending a final judgement. Irish sources indicated, however, that Dublin would challenge the justification for such a request before the court.

The Irish restrictions were imposed last month and ban all vessels of more than 110 ft and

1,100 brake horsepower from fishing within a coastal band extending in places as far as 100 miles. Ireland itself only has two boats big enough to be covered by the ban.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, the Commissioner responsible for fisheries, made clear at today's weekly meeting of the Commission that he saw no reason to change the original proposals for revising the common fisheries policy.

Instead, EEC agriculture ministers, who meet in Brussels next Monday and Tuesday, will be asked to initiate an urgent reconsideration of the proposals, which ran into such stiff opposition last autumn that they were shelved.

Britain and Ireland are the countries pressing most strongly for the revision of the policy, since about 80 per cent of Community fish stocks lie in their sectors of the EEC's 200-mile zone. They say they can no longer accept the principle of unrestricted access for all EEC fishermen.

Our Glasgow Correspondent writes: A hundred Scottish fishermen, MPs, from Scottish fishing constituencies, and local authority representatives will fly to Brussels on Monday to protest to the EEC farm and fisheries ministers against the proposed 12-mile limit, which they said could destroy the Scottish inshore fishing industry, endangering 80,000 jobs.

Commission move to outlaw British pig subsidies

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, May 11
The European Commission today stepped up its pressure on the British Government to abolish the payment of national subsidies to pig farmers.

At its regular weekly meeting, the Commission decided to ask the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg for an immediate interim injunction outlawing the subsidies.

The latest move in the long-running legal battle over the subsidies comes after a recent decision by the British Government to counter-attack the Commission. Britain asked the Luxembourg court to rule against the Commission's original

decision to forbid the payment of national subsidies.

The British argue that their latest move was basically a tactical one designed to leave the Government's options open in fighting the case. But the Commission apparently regards it as a stalling tactic aimed at dragging out the long legal process even further.

The subsidies were introduced to slow down the rapid slaughter rate of British pigs, which, the Government maintains, was caused by a flood of cheap meat imports. The Commission's view is that the subsidies are illegal because they discriminate against pig producers in other EEC member states.

Milan decides not to send minor offenders to jail

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, May 11
Dr Mauro Gresti, Milan's chief public prosecutor, has placed full responsibility for solving the problem of overcrowded prisons on the Ministry of Justice after announcing that people found guilty of relatively minor offences will not for the time being be sent to jail.

His initiative is restricted to Milan. It concerns offences with a maximum sentence of four months or less and will remain in force for a month.

Dr Gresti argues that the move was forced on him by an acute shortage of space in Milan's prisons. He said he had tried to find cell space

elsewhere in the country but was only offered 10 places.

His action is controversial. There have been complaints that the ban on imprisonment for minor offences varies geographically and this could be regarded as contravening the constitutional principle of equality.

Dr Gresti's move is the latest development in the country's battle to bring people to justice and to make the punishment last its proper course. Last year, there were 434 escapes from prison, more than one a day, and so far this year the figure of 133 escapes suggests that last year's record will be broken in 1977.

Greece orders farm census to ease entry into EEC

From Mario Modiano
Athens, May 11
The Government has ordered an urgent census of the country's farm population in the hope that it will prove Greece's diminishing dependence on agriculture, and ease entry into the European Community.

Those who oppose the enlargement of the EEC argue that the admission of a predominantly agricultural country such as Greece, would impose heavy financial burdens and institutional strains.

Their argument relies on official Greek statistics. The 1971 census, for instance, gave a farm population of 38.2 per cent of the total 3,081,731 Greeks living in villages of less than 2,000 inhabitants, out of a national population of 8,758,641.

According to the same census, 1,312,600 Greeks were employed in agriculture, 40.6 per cent of the working population of 3,235,996.

Inaccuracies were detected in the 1971 census results within the year in the course of the application of some agricultural programmes.

In one of them, Ministry of Agriculture officials found that only one out of four persons registered in 1971 as farmers were actually land workers.

the rest were either absent or did other work. The discrepancies were even more striking in mountain villages, mainly because of emigration.

Professor Adam Pepelasis, governor of the state-owned Agricultural Bank which finances Greek farmers, was the first to notice these differences. He asked the 186 branch offices of his bank to check the cards of all registered farmers. These were found to be inaccurate to the extent of 50 to 75 per cent in many areas.

Mr Pepelasis said: "I estimate that the agricultural labour force in Greece is roughly between 38 and 22 per cent of the total labour force—35 per cent, the official figure used in our dealings with the Community."

Of course, this is still a far cry from the 40.6 per cent of the 1971 census, but it is lower than Ireland's and closer to Italy's 16.6 per cent.

Mr Yiannos Routsos, the Minister of Agriculture, who ordered the new census, said that if the count indeed showed a smaller farm population, this would drastically modify the basic facts about Greek agriculture, which EEC experts have found inadequate for an easy harmonization.

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EEC proposal would limit culling of birds

By a Staff Reporter
The indiscriminate killing of an estimated 200 million birds in Italy each year could soon be ended, British MPs were told yesterday. The hunting of migratory species in Italy, a popular pastime, is threatening the survival of some birds. The culling of birds has attracted particular concern among conservationists within the EEC.

A European Commission draft directive, providing general protection for all species of wild bird found in member states, is expected to be approved by the Council of Ministers later this year. Once in force, the directive would place a ban on killing and taking of birds and their eggs, and offenders could be brought before the European Court.

A subcommittee of the select Committee on European Legislation was told yesterday that Britain is likely to face fewer problems than other member states in implementing the draft directive, though some adjustments would have to be made to United Kingdom legislation if it is not amended.

Mr Graham Fuller, an assistant secretary of the planning, port and countryside directorate of the Department of the Environment, told the subcommittee that the taking of birds for falconry and airfield clearance was not clearly permitted under the directive.

School fighting Mafia mentality closed by debts

Rome, May 11—Signor Danilo Dolci, aged 25 years, a crusader against poverty, ignorance and the Mafia, has decided to shut his revolutionary new school in Sicily because of debts, his organization announced today.

The school, built in the heart of the island's Mafia country with funds raised from supporters around the world, was an attempt to create a generation of children without the traditional Mafia mentality.

Large sums of money promised for the school had not materialized and massive debts had accumulated. The teachers and other staff had not been paid for six months, the organization said, but it was hoped that ways would be found to overcome the financial problems.

Signor Dolci, aged 53, is in Sweden at the moment on a fundraising visit, an aide said.

The school, which has attracted the interest of education specialists from many countries, was started about three years ago on a hillside overlooking Palermo, in western Sicily. It has about 100 children and 18 staff.

Lack of money has stopped work on facilities required for Education Ministry recognition. The lack of this official recognition has in turn created a mass of other bureaucratic problems, the aide said.—Reuter.

Herald Tribune or Zurich

Zurich, May 11.—The English-language daily newspaper, 'International Herald Tribune' will be printed in Zurich, as well as in France and London, from the autumn, it is announced today.

A contract has been signed for the publication of between 1,000 and 70,000 copies a day in distribution in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Austria, Italy and parts of the Balkans, Africa and East Asia. The newspaper is edited in Paris—Agence France-Press.

Free prisoners, Danes say

Copenhagen, May 11.—The Danish Government has signed an appeal by Amnesty International for the immediate release of political prisoners throughout the world. Six political parties also signed the appeal here yesterday.

The appeal will be presented to the United Nations on December 10, the twenty-ninth anniversary of the declaration of human rights.—Reuter.

Bull kills vet

Bologna, May 11.—A bull which went to a dead end, seriously injured a farmer, and killed a vet, near Bologna, was not dead by police.

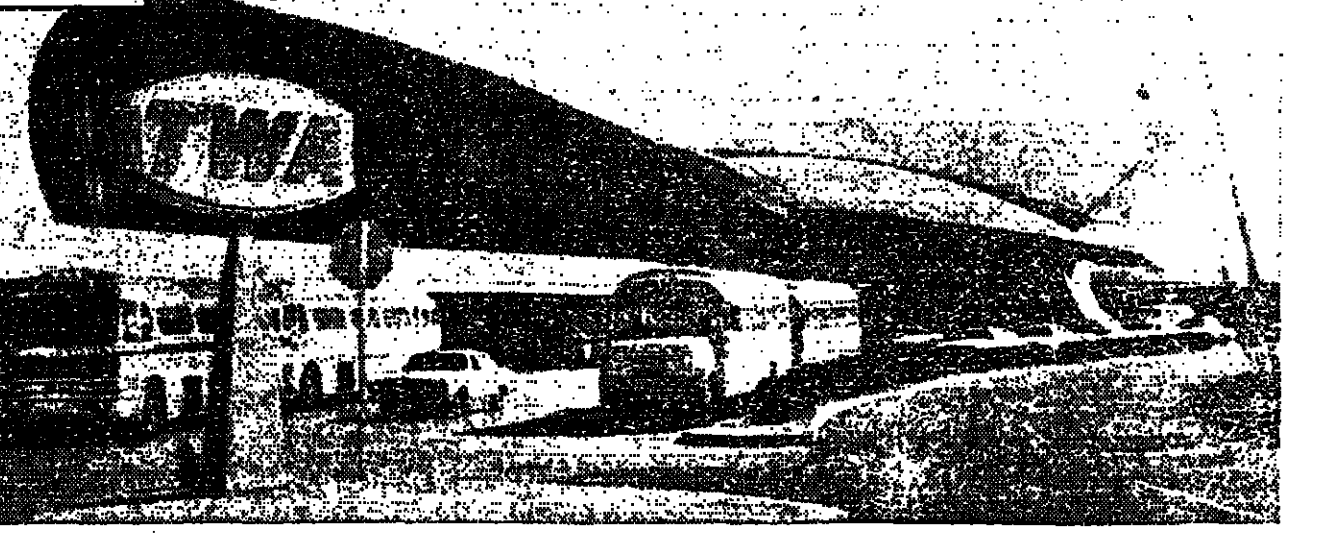
Children's home given pools will

Madrid, May 11.—A Madrid chemist who won 175,130 pesetas (£24,000) this week on the pool has given the money to a home for backward children.—Agence France-Press.

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OVERSEAS

Churches to pressure British firms after report on black miners

By Desmond Quigley

British companies with investments in South Africa are likely to face increased pressure from church organizations as a result of a report, given exclusively in *The Times* yesterday, on the conditions of blacks working in a South African gold mine.

The report, prepared by the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, the country's largest mining finance house, drew a vivid picture of the degradation, humiliation, corruption and near institutionalized homosexuality suffered by black miners.

Mr Patrick Stuart, executive secretary of Christian Concern for Southern Africa, said yesterday that his organization "will see that this article is drawn to the attention of its sponsoring church bodies, and as a result of the article I think that the churches will increase their pressure on companies with investments in South Africa, particularly in respect to the migrant labour system."

Mr Stuart, who has requested the corporation for a copy of the report, said there was a growing feeling that British companies should be pressured into at least halting all further investment in South Africa.

"We find it encouraging that a major company should take the time to find out what their work force thinks and feels, because too often in this country investors are given bland assurances on the position of black workers."

"There are assurances, for example, that the blacks do not hate the migratory labour system and that they come back to the mines year after year, but that picture contrasts strongly with the article in *The Times*."

Reference to the report is made in the annual statement released today—of Mr Harry Oppenheimer, the chairman of Anglo American, who writes: "As a result we have taken a fresh look at all our administrative and induction procedures, and have improved on or dispensed so far as possible with those that are a source of irritation or dissatisfaction."

"One of the encouraging features to emerge from the research was the pride that many black mineworkers take in their work. We are very conscious of the need to respond to this pride, through career advancement and proper representation."

In his statement, Mr Oppenheimer also touches on the political, social and economic problems confronting South Africa.

"We must face the fact," he states, "that the growth of the economy at a rate sufficient to eliminate unemployment and provide rising standards of living for our rapidly growing population will be difficult or even impossible unless we can so order our affairs that investors abroad recover confidence in our social and political stability and are willing to participate on a substantial scale in our economic development."

Business News, page 28

Man in the news: journalist into diplomat US post for 'cleverest young man'

By Roger Berthoud

Many of Peter Jay's friends must have wondered what fresh fields he might choose to conquer, having reached the upper plateau of newspaper and television journalism (as Economics Editor of *The Times* and presenter of *ITV's Weekend World*) well before his present age of 40.

None of them, least of all Mr Jay himself, would have suspected that he might take over Britain's most important diplomatic post. Yesterday evening, sitting in his study at his desk in a corner of *The Times* Building, New, Her Majesty's future Ambassador in Washington still looked slightly surprised by it all.

"It is an awesome and exciting challenge," he said. "My wife and I are now dedicated to doing a good job."

"I know this has been a very personal decision of the Foreign Secretary, and indeed otherwise I would have wondered whether I could or should do it. But I find his confidence and sense of purpose are a marvellous inspiration to anyone who is going to represent Britain abroad."

It is a fact that Mr Jay has known Dr Owen since the latter became an MP in 1966, and that they are good friends. It is also a fact that Mr Jay is as ardent a friend of the United States as he is sceptical about "Europeanism."

"Britain and the United States are the two countries that I really love most in the world," he said yesterday, "and I can think of nothing I would rather do, or be more honoured to be asked to do, than to represent one in the other."

He first visited the United States in 1966 on a Ford Foundation grant, travelling from North to South and East to West. He paid frequent visits there for *The Times* during the next two years, and worked in Washington as an economics editor in exile from January to December 1969.

Last summer he sailed his boat there and back for a holiday in Maine. Margaret, his wife, has specialized in American stories as a television journalist, and between them they have many American friends.

Mr Jay is not partisan to say that the record of success has been remorseless: a scholar at and from Winchester; first class honours in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from Christ Church, Oxford, despite being President of the Union; six and a half years as a notoriously brilliant if somewhat critical young man in the Treasury; and just 10 years as a highly polemical economics editor of *The Times*.

It was predictable that with his combination of good looks and articulateness he would also be a success in television. His presentation of the *Weekend World* programme has amply (too amply, some would say) demonstrated his belief that television should not trivialize serious issues; while the series of Jay interviews has shown his deep love of philosophy as well as of politics and economics.

Even marriage has conspired to burnish the glittering image. It was perfectly natural that the son of a brilliant if somewhat austere Labour cabinet minister, Mr Douglas Jay, and of one of the best of Labour's GLC councillors, Peggy Jay, should marry the daughter of another, less intellectually brilliant cabinet minister, with, however, perhaps the most sensitive political antennae in Britain, Mr James Callaghan.

Mr Jay, who is 40, has remained his forceful and lovely self, acting sometimes with aplomb as hostess at 10 Downing Street reception; formidable training for the wife of an ambassador.

If Peter Jay has a fault, it has been occasionally to carry self-confidence to the point of arrogance, as he extends his considerable length in an armchair, puts his feet on the coffee table and puffs on one of his cigars.

But that tendency is likely to vanish in the consciousness of his daunting new job.

The assets he takes to Washington are indisputable: intellectual brilliance, great charm, a friendly, outward-going nature, a profound grasp of the wide range of human experience, and a knowledge of how bureaucracies work, gleaned in those years at the Treasury.

It would be surprising if President Carter, who saw him during his visit to London, as did Mr Vance, the Secretary of State, is not delighted at the appointment.

Nato allies agree to cooperate more closely on defence

By Roger Berthoud and David Spalding

A two-day meeting of the Nato Council, attended by heads of state and government from the 15 member nations, ended yesterday in London with the formal adoption of three proposals put forward on Tuesday by President Carter.

As confirmed in the final communiqué, the Allies will make a fresh attempt to co-operate in all aspects of defence production. The aim is to make better use of available resources and have a more equitable "two-way traffic" of arms sales between Europe and North America, at present in a ratio of one to 10.

Secondly, they will produce a long-term programme "to enable Nato forces to meet the needs of the 1980s and try to ensure more effective continuity of defence programmes."

Thirdly, they will make a new study of long-term trends in East-West relations and assess their implications for the Alliance.

President Carter's suggestion for a follow-up summit meeting next spring in Washington found general favour and Mr Joop den Uyl, the Dutch Prime Minister, expressed his government's willingness to postpone its current summit in The Hague.

Thus ended five days of summit meetings in London which had brought the American President into contact with the leaders first of Canada, France, West Germany, Great Britain, Italy and Japan, and then additionally with those of Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Turkey and Greece. In many cases this was his first such meeting.

Commenting on the Nato meeting in particular, Mr W. Tapley Bennett, the United States permanent representative to the Nato Council, said that he thought it had been a "real success" and very useful for the President and for Mr Vance, the Secretary of State.

A spirit of camaraderie had developed very quickly, he thought.

Among the United States partners, Mr Carter was held to have combined forcefulness with a great deal of finesse. The juxtaposition of the "economic" and Nato summits was felt to have emphasized the political nature of the economic discussions and the underlying importance of economic and social well-being within the Nato member states.

Another link between the two meetings was provided by the inclusion for the first time—despite some reservations from the French—of a reference in the communiqué to the developing countries.

It reaffirmed the support of Nato leaders for an equitable world system which would serve the best interests of "developing as well as developed" countries. They promised to work towards this end, and as at the economic summit, invited the Warsaw Pact countries to do the same.

The main topic of discussion at yesterday's concluding morning session was this summit's East-West conference in Belgrade on the implementation of the 1975 Helsinki agreement on security and co-operation in Europe.

It had been generally agreed: Dr Joseph W. Nye, Secretary-General of Nato, and afterwards that all aspects of the Helsinki agreement should be dealt with in Belgrade with the allies showing a spirit of cooperation and not seeking a confrontation with the Warsaw Pact powers.

With the Western powers setting such a high value on "baskets three"—concerned with human rights and freedom of movement—it was not possible simply to forget some parts of the Helsinki agreement.

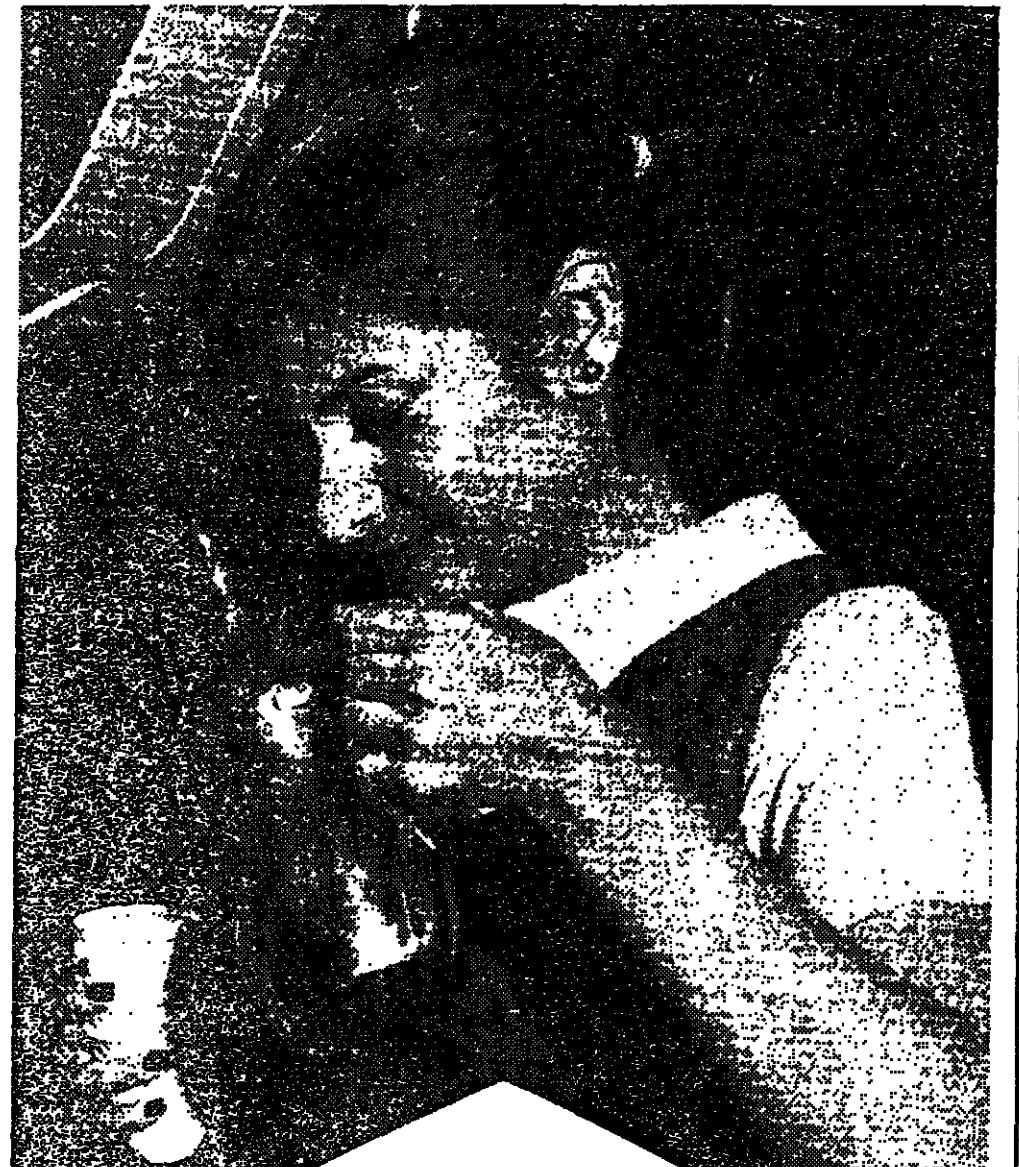
The communiqué noted that there had been some improvements in East-West relations in recent years, but "elements of instability and uncertainty persist." The continuing growth in the offensive capabilities of the Warsaw Pact forces was of particular concern.

While detecting "limited progress in certain fields," the implementation of the Helsinki final act, the Allies emphasized that much remained to be done to realize its full potential both in inter-state relations and in the lives of the citizens in the countries concerned.

Nato positive element was the "Moderate and statesmanlike" comments of the Greek and Turkish Prime Ministers, as Dr Luns put it, and their evident determination to resolve their differences peacefully.

It is clear that, as ever, the human contacts achieved at the summit were at least as important as the political discussions.

Leading article, page 19



Breaking news gently at Lutyens palace

From Patrick Brogan
Washington, May 11

Her Majesty's Ambassador broke the news gently. Sir Peter Ramsbotham told us that he was delighted with the way the news was broken. It was all very encouraging. He was going to get an honorary law degree from Yale on Monday. Professor Kingman Brewster's last gesture before going to London. Mr Peter Jay of *The Times* had been appointed to succeed him, and he had been made governor of Bermuda.

The British Embassy, not to mention the British press in Washington, is as astonished as they must be in New Printing House Square and other such places.

We sat around the library in the residence, amazed and perplexed, asking the obvious and unanswerable questions. Was Sir Peter pleased? Would Mrs Thatcher keep him on? What did the Americans think about it all?

Mr Jay, of course, knows Washington and the residence. He was our Economics Correspondent here for a year. *The Times* does its best but the accommodation here leaves much to be desired. The Lutyens palace is in every way preferable.

It is true that things have changed here in the past few years. Mr Nixon now stars on television, and Secretaries of the Treasury and other high officials of Mr Jay's time have retired to the obscurity of six-figure incomes in industry.

Sir Peter remarked that it was often sensible to change ambassadors with a change in Administration. He refrained from observing that the change might therefore have been made rather earlier.

Sir Peter has devoted himself assiduously to getting acquainted with Mr Carter's ministers and assistants and has had considerable success. The good old boys from Georgia

have proved susceptible to the charms of Sir Peter Ramsbotham and the Lutyens palace.

He said that he was delighted that the younger generation was taking over. Dr Owen is 38, Mr Jay 40. He also said that he expected to enjoy Bermuda greatly. That island will probably win independence in the next few years and Sir Peter, whose father saw Ceylon into independence 30 years ago, is looking forward to performing the same function for Bermuda.

Sir Peter came here as Ambassador in 1974, appointed by Mr Heath and confirmed, after a nervous interval, by Mr Wilson. He had to cope with the delicate task of observing the proprieties with a young Administration without compromising his future position with President Ford's team.

The debate over Concorde was another test for diplomacy. It was necessary to nag the Americans without being tiresome, obtaining landing rights without irritating them and harming more important long-term relations. He succeeded admirably—unlike the French—in balancing the two.

Sir Peter had also to cope with the Queen's visit during the Bicentennial celebrations. Deciding whom to ask to the parties was never more difficult. The Embassy has beautiful gardens, of which Sir Peter took loving care, and one of his triumphs was to get all the roses in bloom together for the Queen.

Mr Jay will have a quieter time. The job of ambassador consists largely of making speeches, explaining Britain's economic condition (emphasizing the bright side of things) and our former Economic Adviser, son of a former President of the Board of Trade, and son-in-law of a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, will doubtless enjoy that part of his duties.

Mr Jay's appointment shocks the Commons

Continued from P1

backbenchers on both sides of the House of Commons were shocked by yesterday's announcement. Politically, whatever the merits of the appointment, Mr Callaghan is considered to have made the mistake of imitating the appointments and honours which Sir Harold Wilson conferred on his associates.

The Prime Minister had been considered until now to have remained aloof from nepotism and personal appointments, and had gained a degree of parliamentary command in consequence.

Some MPs think that Mr Jay's appointment will damage Mr Callaghan's reputation, and that Prime Minister's question time in the Commons today will be a parliamentary occasion not to be missed.

Mr Jay apparently had a successful introduction to President Carter at the Lancaster House reception on Saturday for the leaders of the Western industrialized nations. Mr Callaghan usually invited his daughter, who was accompanied by her husband. President Carter said that he would like to meet the guy, and the rapport was instant.

According to the Foreign Office, the basic salary of the British Ambassador to Washington is £18,675, although the total package, including expenses, perquisites, is over £40,000. In Fleet Street it was assumed that Mr Jay had improved notably upon his joint earnings from newspaper and television journalism.

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Refugees say new squads will hunt Amin enemies

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, May 11

Refugees arriving here from Uganda say killings there of members of the Acholi and Langi tribes, who have been blamed for supporting the recent plot to overthrow President Amin, are being intensified.

According to one group, 56 soldiers at the Uganda Army headquarters in Kampala were killed after being asked to explain why their fellow tribesmen were leaving Uganda in large numbers.

Specially recruited "elimination squads" were undergoing special training at four centres in Uganda, the refugees said. They are not part of the regular

Army and are kept apart from it. All are said to be members of President Amin's own Kakwa tribe, but many of them have been recruited from adjoining areas of Zaire and Sudan.

The refugees said there was a plan for a "final solution" of the opposition to President Amin by eliminating all influential and educated Acholi and Langi. Several thousand members of these tribes have already fled to Kenya, Sudan and Zaire.

They include doctors, teachers and other professionals. The new "elimination squads" were intended to destroy any more escapes, the refugees said.

Text of Atlantic summit communiqué

The following final communiqué was issued in London yesterday at the end of the North Atlantic Council meeting:

1. The North Atlantic Council met in London on May 10 and 11, 1977, with the participation of heads of state and government.

2. The essential purpose of the Alliance is to safeguard the peace and security of its members, enabling them to promote the values of democracy and respect for human rights, individual freedom, justice and social progress, and to make possible the creation of a lasting structure of peace. The Allies are firmly resolved to maintain and enhance the effectiveness of the Alliance and the close unity among them.

3. Although there have been some improvements in East-West relations in recent years, the Alliance is faced with the continuing growth in the strength of offensive capabilities of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact countries. In these circumstances, the Allies emphasize the need for the Alliance to maintain at an adequate level the forces required for the common defence and for deterrence. They are resolved to strengthen their mutual support efforts and co-operation.

4. The Allies are determined to cooperate closely in all aspects of defence production. Their aim is to achieve the most effective use of available resources and to preserve and promote the strong industrial and technological capability which is essential for the defence of the Alliance and to develop a more balanced relationship between Europe and North America. The Allies will continue to make a fresh study of long-term trends in East-West relations and to assess their implications for the Alliance.

5. Leaders of states taking part in the integrated defence structure of the Alliance requested their defence ministers to initiate and develop a long-term programme to enable Nato forces to meet the changing defence needs of the 1980s and to review the manner in which the Alliance implements its defence programmes to ensure more effective follow-through.

6. At the same time, the Allies reaffirm their conviction that the security in Europe and in the

world, without which détente could not produce its beneficial effects, cannot be achieved by statements of intent, but requires concrete efforts to reduce the level of armaments through realistic measures of disarmament and arms control. They will continue to implement the CSCE and other commitments under the Helsinki Final Act, while recognizing that progress also depends on a constructive dialogue between the Soviet Union and East European states.

7. The Allies warmly welcome the efforts of the United States to negotiate with the Soviet Union an agreement to limit and reduce strategic arms which takes into account Allied interests.

8. With respect to MBFR, the participating Allies emphasize the importance they attach to which these negotiations, the goal of which is to contribute to a more stable relationship and to the strengthening of peace and security in Europe. They call for a positive response to the additional offer they made to the Warsaw Pact countries in December 1975, and reaffirm their overall objective of establishing approximate parity in ground forces in the form of a common collective ceiling for ground force manpower and the reduction of the disparity in tanks, which would ensure undiminished security at a lower level of forces.

9. The collective security ensured by the Alliance, in addition to enhancing global stability, provides the strength and confidence that enable the member countries to persevere in their efforts to reduce the tensions between East and West and to increase progressively the areas of co-operation. In this connection, the Allied leaders requested the Council in Permanent Session to make a fresh study of long-term trends in East-West relations and to assess their implications for the Alliance.

Improvement in East-West relations will depend on the extent to which all concerned show moderation and self-restraint both in Europe and in other parts of the world. With regard to Berlin and Germany as a whole, the other Allies fully associated themselves with the views expressed by the heads of state and government of the United States, the United Kingdom, France and the Federal Republic of Germany in their statement of 9th May, 1977, and noted in particular that the

strict observance and full implementation of the quadripartite agreement of 3rd September, 1971, are essential to the strengthening of détente, the maintenance of security and the development of co-operation throughout Europe.

10. The Allies stress the great importance they attach to the implementation by the CSCE of its various provisions of the Helsinki Final Act. There has been limited progress in certain fields. While welcoming this, the Allies emphasize that much still remains to be done if the potential of the Final Act is to be realized both in terms of state relations and in the lives of the inhabitants of all the countries concerned.

The forthcoming Belgrade meeting will provide a useful opportunity for a thorough review of the implementation of the Final Act, and for an exchange of views on ways of developing the process of détente in the future. At that meeting the Allies will work for a constructive outcome which will promote better relations between the participating states and be beneficial to all their peoples.

11. The Allies recognize as a priority task the aspirations of people throughout the world to human rights and fundamental freedoms. They are convinced that respect for these rights and freedoms, in accordance with the commitments accepted by governments in the Charter of the United Nations and in other international documents including the Helsinki Final Act, is essential for peace, friendship and co-operation among nations.

12. The Allied leaders reaffirm their support for an equitable world system in which all countries develop, as well as developed, will see their best interests served and which can sustain the economic progress of all. They intend to mobilize their efforts towards the attainment of that objective, in the appropriate fora. They invite the Warsaw Pact countries to do the same.

13. Recognizing the vitality and vigour shown by the Alliance over the years, the Allied leaders reaffirm their determination to maintain and strengthen their close association and cohesion within the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty. On that firm foundation they will persevere in the task of building a more just and peaceful world.

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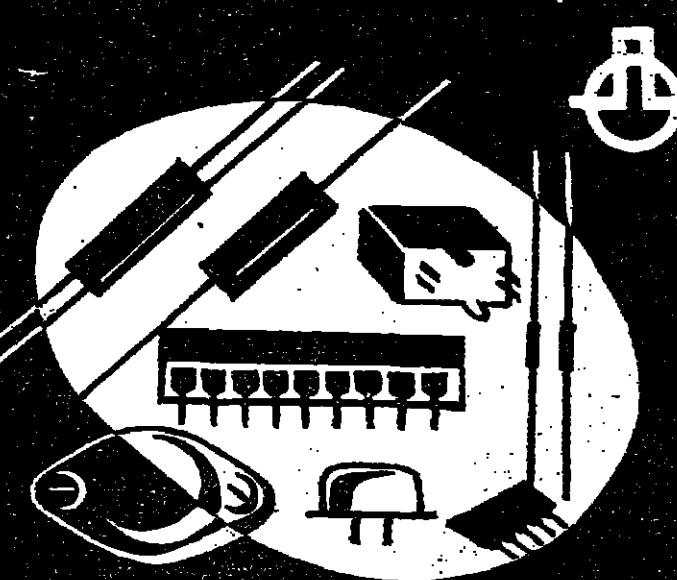
Day	Flight No.	London	Amman	Baghdad	Bahrain	Doha	Manama	Muscat
MON	GF002	1000	2115	1855	1845	1815	1815	2210
TUE	GF242	1510	2115	1855	1845	1815	1815	2210
WED	GF246	1510	2115	1855	1845	1815	1815	2210
THURS	GF244	1510	2115	1855	1845	1815	1815	2210
FRI	GF248	1510	2115	1855	1845	1815	1815	2210
SAT	GF246	1510	2115	1855	1845	1815	1815	2210
SUN	GF242	1510	2115	1855	1845	1815	1815	2210

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OVERSEAS

Thai Army finds it can contain insurgents without American help

From Peter Hain, Bangkok, May 11

After living alongside its communist neighbours in Indo-China for the past two years, Thailand is no longer obsessed with the "domino" theory. This new mood of confidence has come with the discovery that the country's problem of insurgency is no worse, or better, than it was two years ago.

The Thai Army estimates that some 8,000 guerrillas, members of the Communist Party of Thailand, are operating in the jungles and mountains in the south, near the border of Laos, in confined southern regions above the border of Malaysia.

Although it is believed that as many as 1,000 rebels have been trained in Laos and equipped with automatic rifles, light mortars and a few rocket-propelled grenades, the Communist Party has made no significant advances since the fall of Saigon and Phnom Penh two years ago.

The party has split into four main groups and their operations are confined to isolated tracks on police stations, overgrown offices and other targets in more remote mountain areas. At present an estimated 2,000 rebels, who are trying to win over isolated hill people in the northern provinces below the border of Laos, have been confined in the region. In recent months the rebels have made a number of hit and run attacks on road building operations in an apparent attempt to hamper the plans of laying down counter-insurgency routes in the inaccessible mountains.

The biggest group, an estimated 3,500 men, are operating in the north-east provinces, west of Laos and the Mekong river. Western diplomats believe real danger lies in this area where guerrillas are capable of acquiring equipment from both Laos and Cambodia in the south.

Another group of 400 rebels are entrenched in secret camps in the centre of Thailand and



Estimated insurgent strengths operating from remote base camps.

another 2,000, armed with obsolete rifles and home-made mines, are operating about 150 miles north of the border of Malaysia. Although the guerrillas have not been able to capture areas of the populated districts of Thailand, their presence in the remote jungles has certainly strained the country's economy.

More than 20,000 regular troops, 15 per cent of the entire strength of the Thai Army, and 15,000 border patrol police are employed on anti-guerrilla operations.

The scale of the operations on both sides is relatively low compared with former battles in Vietnam and Cambodia. In spite of rumours that suggest rocket installations have been sighted near the border of Laos, it would appear as though the Thai guerrillas have not yet acquired heavy weapons.

One Western diplomat summed up the situation: "The problem is no better or worse than it was in the past, but the morale of the Thai Army has been given a boost. The Americans are no longer here and the Thais have discovered that they can contain the situation themselves. The ghost of the 'domino' theory appears to be fading."

Minister insulted by women in Pakistan

From Richard Wigg, Lahore, May 11

Mr Yehya Bakhtiar, Attorney General in Mr Bhutto's Government, was spat at and insulted by pro-opposition barristers and women today when he appeared outside the Punjab High Court, where he defended the Pakistan Government's use of the Army to uphold law and order.

The High Court is hearing a petition brought by a veteran opponent of the Prime Minister, challenging the constitutionality of martial law now imposed on the capital of the volatile Punjab province.

The women outside the court, led by Begum Afifa Memon, Secretary-General of the women's section of the opposition Pakistan National Alliance, had turned out for the first time to take the lead in defying martial law provisions against any public assembly during Lahore's early morning break in the curfew.

Inside the court, the Attorney General immediately demanded a suspension of the hearings after lodging his complaint, and this led to acrimonious exchanges between him and lawyers representing the petitioner.

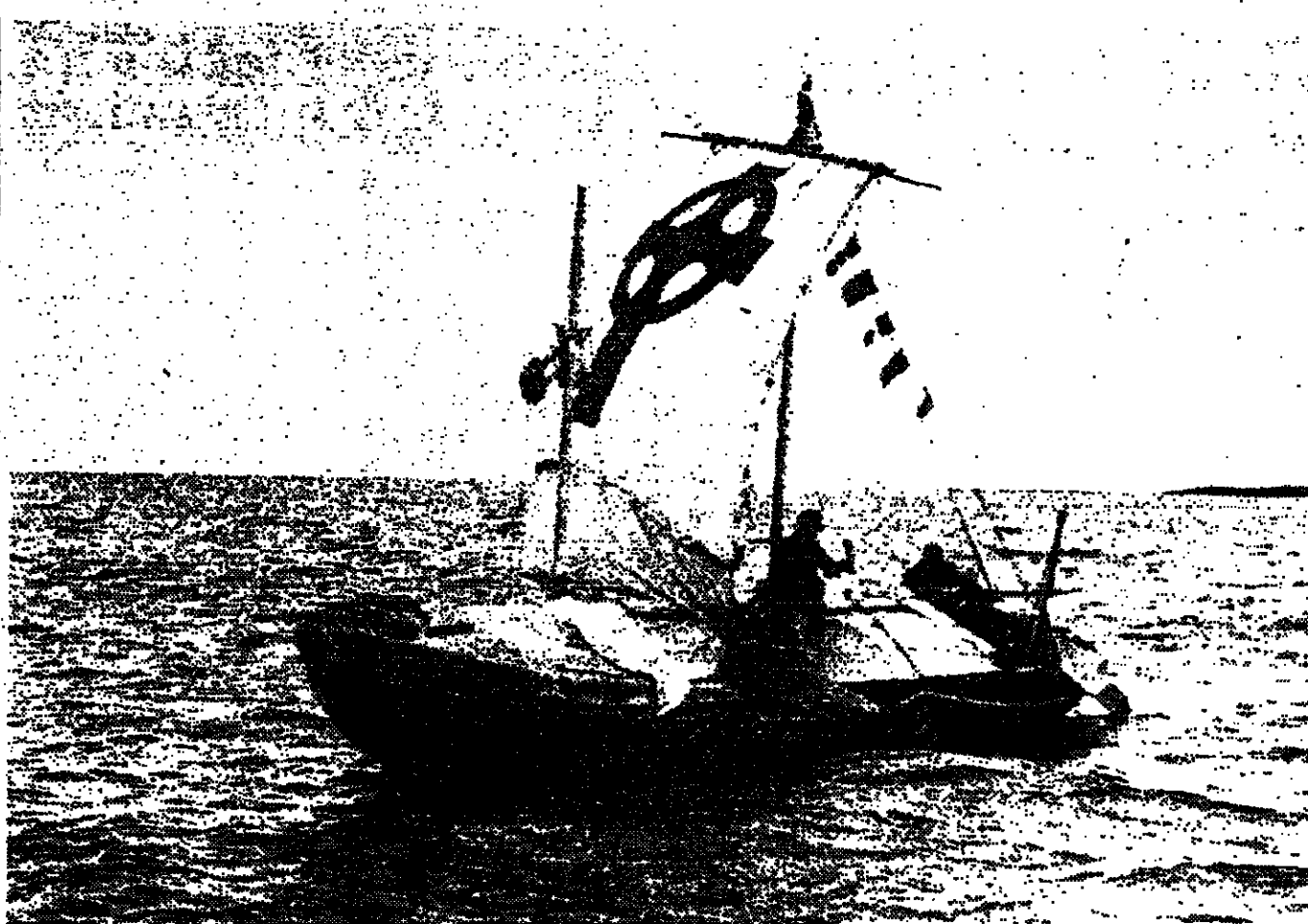
The bench of five judges, led by Mr Aslam Raza Raza, the Chief Justice, struggled in vain to maintain what they called "the decorum" of the court, while counsel, who are virtually all opposition political leaders, exchanged insults with Mr Bhutto's minister.

After the scene outside the court the women marched for more than an hour through an area of the city and to the Lahore Gate, now the rendezvous point after Friday's killing by troops of three opposition demonstrators. The women carried banners, saying: "Down with murderer Bhutto" and "Generals save the nation from the killer Bhutto". They prayed on the size of one of the killings.

Like yesterday, the Army was almost completely absent, law and order duties having been taken over by the police.

Islamabad, May 11.—The National Assembly has passed a bill providing for penalties of up to two years in prison and fines of up to £500. It applies only to Muslims and not to foreign diplomats in Pakistan.

Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister, announced last month that the Government would prohibit liquor, gambling and nightclubs to bring an Islamic order to Pakistan. The gambling law is to be introduced soon.



Voyage resumes: The leather boat, Brendan, defeated by bad weather last autumn during its voyage from Ireland to North America, has resumed its journey where it left off, in Reykjavik.

Its crew of four adventurers from Britain and Ireland, led by Mr Timothy Severin, aged 36, an English author who lives in Cork, are seeking to prove that Irish monks could have discovered America by this route nearly 1,000 years before Columbus.

The 36ft boat covered with 42 ox hides and having a framework of oak and ash, is photographed off south-west Iceland on its way to Newfoundland. Its final destination is Boston.

54 killed in crash of Israeli Air Force helicopter

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, May 11

An Israeli Air Force CH53 helicopter on a night training exercise yesterday crashed, caught fire and exploded near Jericho, killing 10 airmen and 44 paratroops on board.

The disaster occurred five miles from the border and may have been witnessed from Jordanian military outposts. But Lieutenant-General Mordechai Gur, the Israeli Chief of Staff, ruled out suggestions of hostile action. He told a press conference that a special committee is inquiring into the cause.

In terms of casualties, it was the biggest peacetime military tragedy since January 26, 1968, when the Dakar, a submarine newly acquired from Britain, was lost on its voyage from Portsmouth to Haifa with 69 men on board. Last night's incident was the worst Air Force peacetime disaster since the birth of Israel.

It occurred at 8.40 pm yesterday but the news was censored for 20 hours until the last of the bereaved families was traced

and notified, in accordance with standard Israeli Defence Forces policy.

The disaster plunged the country into mourning. With six days to go for the parliamentary elections, all the parties cancelled campaign meetings, broadcasts and advertising.

The pilot was identified as a student of the Israel Institute of Technology, aged 26, who completed his regular military service a year ago and was on reserve duty.

The general said the take off was "normal and natural" and the pilot, who was in communication with the control tower, reported no difficulties.

Reporters at the scene of the accident this morning saw wreckage spread over a radius of 200 yards. The accident occurred during an annual exercise in transporting a paratroop formation by helicopter. The ill-fated CH53 was the last of a large number of aircraft to take off in pairs. Weapons and live ammunition were among the wreckage.

Libyan defector speaks of executions without trial

From Robert Fisk, Cairo, May 11

Egypt has been presented with an unexpected propaganda coup against Colonel Gaddafi's regime in Libya by the defection of a young Libyan Air Force cadet who flew his French-built training aircraft across the desert border and gave himself up.

The official Middle East News Agency in Cairo poured out a long report on the pilot this morning, recording in considerable detail his denunciation of "a regime based on terror, execution, detention and the appropriation of the people's wealth."

Cadet Rabome Said al-Astar, a tall, strikingly handsome man with a broad smile, appeared on Egyptian television tonight standing next to the single-engine Rallye 180 aircraft in which he flew to Egypt and glancing rather nervously to left and right as the cameras focused on him.

According to the cadet, Colonel Gaddafi has been executing Libyans and Egyptians

without trial on suspicion of subversion. He named three Libyan Army officers who had, he said, been executed on the personal orders of the colonel: Captain Muhammad Man-koush; Lieutenant Ahmed Diab; and Lieutenant Farag Muhammad. He said there had been demonstrations against the Libyan leader in Tripoli and Benghazi.

There was one intriguing moment, however, when Cadet al-Astar said he wanted to join the Libyan opposition movement in Cairo, headed by Major Omar Meheishi, a former member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council, who defected to Egypt two years ago.

The Egyptians have never made any secret of Major Meheishi's presence. Indeed, he was the subject of a kidnapping attempt last year. The reemergence with so much publicity of his role as an opposition leader, however, suggests that Egypt may still consider him the catalyst for a revolt against Colonel Gaddafi inside Libya.

Owen plan gets guarded welcome in Salisbury

From Michael Knipe, Salisbury, May 11

The announcement by Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, at Westminster today that an Anglo-American consultative group would go to Africa soon for talks with all parties in the Rhodesia conflict was welcomed by Government sources in Salisbury.

However, concern has been expressed over the possibility of British and American consultative teams setting up bases in either Lusaka or Dar es Salaam. The feeling here is that this would be giving too much attention to the Patriotic Front, led by Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, at the expense of the rival nationalist faction led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, and other formal African groups.

There is concern also that the American role in the settlement negotiations may be reduced because of the apparent opposition of the Patriotic Front.

There was no immediate official response to Dr Owen's announcement but Mr David Smith, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, expressed a degree of optimism over the settlement initiative during a speech for Rhodesian businessmen at Victoria Falls.

Paying tribute to Dr Owen's personal qualities, Mr Smith said he offered "the best chance of a successful outcome to future negotiations that has occurred in the last 25 years."

The Deputy Prime Minister spoke bluntly of Rhodesia's economic problems, saying that the guerrilla conflict was draining financial resources. There would be lower allocation of funds for development in the next budget estimates in July. The money saved would be diverted to defence costs.

Mr Smith said: "The conditions of terrorism in the country, the political uncertainties, the international and domestic recessions and the frequency of call-ups have all combined to create a climate of doubt and a degree of tension. Confidence has taken a heavy blow in every sphere of activity."

He urged the businessmen to accept the need for changes, saying that whether the changes were welcomed or not, realism was vital and people had to adapt to changes which were inevitable.

A military communiqué today said nationalist guerrillas had killed three soldiers, two whites and an African, while security forces had killed 14 guerrillas in the past 24 hours.

S Africa allows Young visit

Washington, May 11.—The South African Government has approved a visit by Mr Andrew Young, the controversial United States representative at the United Nations, but not on the date he had originally planned, the State Department said.

Mr Young will travel to South Africa on May 21, not May 19, as he originally intended.

Hopeful start to Salt talks

Geneva, May 11.—The strategic arms limitation talks resumed today with a two-hour meeting between the chief American and Soviet delegates in a more hopeful climate.

One reason for the better atmosphere is a Soviet compromise proposal floated last week in a 10 per cent cut in the missile and bomber force ceiling, set in Vladivostok.

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by Lewine Mair a one iron off the tee five times
In the last seven windswent holes

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...and the fact that the *Journal* is a journal of the American Psychological Association, the largest and most influential organization in the field of psychology, adds to the journal's prestige and makes it a must-read for all psychologists.

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

Colonel Neil Foster, Master of the Grafton Hounds, and Archie

acquired Toby. The first of a comprehensive bunker section, the

Scottish riders by the master of the Jedforest Hounds, Mr Roly Barker, Morning Glory, who is

and Drachman; 3. Mrs. E. M. Turner's Happy Medium. II. Mack, Sharp and Doling. Grade B: 1. M. Pyrah's Up-

A serious test confronts the

Italy twelfth, but the Italians have improved since then and showed, during their three matches in Eng-

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 400 million to 600 million. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 700 million by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 800 million by the year 2020. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 900 million by the year 2025. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1 billion by the year 2030. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.1 billion by the year 2035. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.2 billion by the year 2040. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.3 billion by the year 2045. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.4 billion by the year 2050. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.5 billion by the year 2055. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.6 billion by the year 2060. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2065. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.8 billion by the year 2070. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 1.9 billion by the year 2075. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2 billion by the year 2080. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2.1 billion by the year 2085. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2.2 billion by the year 2090. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2.3 billion by the year 2095. The number of illiterate people in the world is expected to reach 2.4 billion by the year 2100.

By Michael Phillips was a decent stayer last y

In the John Porter Stakes Shanganuzo finished six lengths

the face of the Lambourn
If they live up to expectations
the Demented Fiddlers

1 1113 *Maggidaurus* (D) (J. Hughes), M. W. Eaglarby. 9-4
2 01 *Araby* (D) (Mrs G. Phillips), J. Winter. 8-13 B. T

04	02040-0	Three Legs (C-D)	(Dr M. Boffa), L. Cuman,	Y. Saint-M 5-9-8
05	040-121	Estuere Forest (C-D)	(B. Corman), N. Anquetin,	B. Rayn

Folkstone programme

9	0	Miracle Bid, M. Ryan 9-0	J. L.
9	0	Persian Friend, J. Hindley 9-0	N. Crowe
0	0	Rina, A. Ingham 9-0	B.

York results

20-1 Beechwood King. Ga-
 Setter, Hard Top, My Marie. 12
 TOTE: Win, £1.17; places, 33p.
 36p.

By Michael Soely jockey has had several classic vic- needs faster ground and that he

Lightning galloped away with the first of the lightning bolts.

3.35 YORKSHIRE CUP (£12,124; 11m) | Ludlow

6-1 Bright Finish, 11-3 Mr. Signore, 11-3 Grey Baron, 8-1 Old Bill, 10-1 Shanganuro, 14-1 Swell Fellow, 16-1 Empty Jest.

York selections
By Our Racing Correspondent

7	00	Miss Mag. V. Cross, 8-8	G. Baxter	3
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Folkestone selections

Brighton The 4.0 and 4.30 races were abandoned.

100

NEW BOOKS

So quiet a life

J. R. R. Tolkien

By Humphrey Carpenter
(Allen & Unwin, £4.95)

The Tolkien

Companion

By J. E. A. Tyler

(Picador, £1.50)

One afternoon in the early 1930s, the Rawlinson and Bosworth Professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Oxford was marking 'School Certificate' examination papers in the study of his little house at Headington. Among the papers was a blank page on which he unthinkingly scribbled the words "In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit". He had better, he thought, find out what that sentence meant. Sixteen years later, *The Lord of the Rings* was published, and J. R. R. Tolkien was famous.

And that is the story of his life. That Mr Carpenter has been able to write so fascinating a biography of so quiet a life is astonishing; but it is true that this is one of the most interesting and readable biographies of a literary figure for some time—and not only for hobbitmen.

The central elements of Tolkien's life were fixed before he was out of his teens. His interest in languages was fostered by his mother, who died when he was eleven, leaving him to be brought up by his father, who was a schoolmaster. "Words took the place of music for him". A teacher interested in him in Anglo-Saxon, and at his school debating society he spoke in that language as well as English, Latin, Greek, and Gothic. Already he loved trees, and had invented his own private language, not only coining the words but investigating their derivation. Mr Carpenter conveys wonderfully well his passion for philology.

Tolkien met his wife-to-be, Edith, when he was 16 and she was 19. Forbidden even to write to her until he was 21, he eventually married her—but by that time was used to the exclusively male world of Oxford, and was to remain all his life devoted to the juvenile

organization of schoolboyish clubs and secret societies. Perhaps his chief friendship, though it had its ups and downs, was with C. S. Lewis, with whom he shared one of those intense, devotional, platonic friendships which so resemble schoolboy crushes.

Mrs Tolkien felt, and was, excluded from much of her husband's life. Mr Carpenter fills his book with the intensity of Tolkien's intellectual life, showing us his subject in all its dark moods and childish humours, and detailing his meticulous passion for his work. It is, of course, to devotees of his writing that this aspect of the book will be most interesting. Some elements of *The Lord of the Rings* emerge very clearly. A "Gangue" of Birmingham appears, for instance, on page 21; on page 51 we find Tolkien buying, in Switzerland, a postcard of a painting of an old Catholic; in Madeline, the name he later wrote: "Origin of Gandalf". The publishing history of the trilogy is also fascinating.

But there is more than this: there is the story of the long saga of *Silmarillion*, which preceded the hobbit books, and will shortly be published. And in particular Mr Carpenter strikes the excitement which his strong feeling that it was setting down a chronicle of actual events. When he had written some arcane verses in Elvish, he would "try to find out" what they meant, not "try to invent". His attitude to myth in general was extremely important to him not only as a writer but as a Roman Catholic, by a study of the meaning played a fascinating and important part in the conversion to Christianity of his friend Lewis. (The intensity of his own myth, by the way, is emphasized by a study of the excellent *The Tolkien Companion* now in paperback.)

It is a dangerous thing to say—far certainly there will be other deductions to be made about Tolkien, his life and his work—but it is difficult to imagine a better or more sympathetic biography than this.

Derek Parker

Learning the hardest lessons

Growing Pains

The Shaping of a Writer

By Daphne du Maurier

(Gollancz, £4.95)

Until now Daphne du Maurier has written about her family (Gerald, *The Du Mauriers*, and the fictional *Mary Anne* and *The Glassblowers*) rather than herself. She has decided to go back to her childhood and adolescence and to her beginnings as a writer, saying that now that she is 70, she has vivid memories of that period, while forgetting what happened a week ago. Fortunately, she kept diaries from 1920 when she was 12 until she married in 1922.

Second daughter of the famous actor-manager, Gerald du Maurier, life was certainly free from poverty, but not from fear, shyness, the pain of losing loved ones to successive, cross Nurse Rush, grumpy Nurse H'm H'm, Nurse Bum and a series of Norland nannies. Bullied in the Park by a horrid little boy (John Poynton—nobody ever forgets a bully) she learned at five one of the hardest lessons. Not everyone can be trusted, not even grown ups or relations, and "in the wood of the world you are on your own".

Theatricals in the nursery feed a literary imagination. Angela, the eldest took the girls' parts, and Daphne played both Jim Hawkins and Long John Silver when she was four-year-old. Jeanne as Elind Faw. Books were the inspiration—in particular Harrison Ainsworth's *Old St Paul's*, causing plague-stricken teddy bears to be buried in flower beds turned plague pits.

Daphne was the "difficult" one—shy, unforthcoming, the onset of menstruation, explained inadequately by an embarrassed Mother (with whom she did not get on particularly well) was a mystery to be kept secret. Characters in the books she read were more real and provided more comfort than life. At 13 she invented an alter ego, her first fictional character, Eric Avon, Captain of Cricket, in School House, Rugby.

At 14 her heart missed a beat at a smile from Cousin Geoffrey, aged 36, a practised charmer with a come-hither air, already married. An instant later she was awakened "and the instinctive knowledge that nobody must know". The facts of life, revealed to her when she was 18, came as a source of astonishment and disbelief. "What an extraordinary thing for people to want to do!"

Fowey in Cornwall as a holiday home and Paris seen from a finishing school were important landmarks in her development. A devotion to the director of the finishing school opened many doors in the understanding of people and their motives, gaining a lifelong friend. The house at Fowey was bought from the profits her father made from Edgar Wallace's play *The Ringer*. As a holiday house it pleased them all, but to Daphne it was "the freedom to write, to work, to wander, freedom to climb hills, to pull a boat, to be alone".

From then on it was a battle to be at Fowey or in Paris, away from the boredom of London and the parental restrictions which seemed so unreasonable. "I hope when you come home you won't start that practice of going out again in the evenings, which was so worrying," wrote her mother to the 21-year-old ravishingly pretty Daphne. In the other hand, her father had no objection to Daphne going on a cruise on a private yacht with people she hardly knew. At Fowey the first book, *The Loving Spirit*, was written, the first book, *Marie Louise*, a fishing lugger, was being built. (She got a rowing boat as a twenty-first birthday present). She had trespassed by getting into Menability, the house of secrets, beautiful and deserted, and had fallen in love with it. Later, from 1943 until 1967, she would live there, and immortalize it in *Rebecca* as Manderley.

Growing Pains is a delightful book, full of amusing and charming stories, pinpointing the literary influences and the first stirrings of books to be written in later years, and with comic and romantic episodes. "There's a most attractive man going up and down the harbour in a white motor boat," said her sister Angela, in the late summer of 1931. It was, they discovered, the artist, David Browning. The following April he introduced himself, and in July, Daphne married him. In her diary she wrote, most unpropitiously, "Adieu, Daphne du Maurier".

Philippa Toomey

Books next week: on Monday, Jessica Mitford's autobiography, *A Fine Old Confession*; Reviews on Thursday include Paul Barker on the National Front.



Woman and Parrot, Bengal, Kalighat School, 1875, from *Indian Drawings and Painted Sketches, 16th through 19th Centuries*, by Stuart Cary Welch (Weatherhill/Phaidon, £9.95).

Less than kin

Kissing Cousins

An Interpretation of British and American Culture, 1945 to 1975.

By Daniel Snowman

(Maurice Temple Smith, £6.50)

"No dogs allowed" (US version); "We regret that in the interests of hygiene, dogs are not allowed" (British version).

Daniel Snowman has written a study of the Americans and the British in an era of great, apparent change. Among his starting points is puzzlement at why such cousinly nations vary so markedly even on such minor matters. But are they minor? As he shrewdly says: the difference between British and American society is partly a difference in whom you trust, and why you trust them.

He has bitten off a difficult, tantalizing and occasionally nebulous subject. His aim is a complex one. Over the years, 1945-75, he is trying first, to pin down how British and American cultures have cross-pollinated each other. (Many other commentators, of course, would more readily see British culture as a shrinking violet being crushed by a honey-violet bumblebee.) But he is also trying to assess how both cultures have changed in these three decades. In his quest he is obliged, in fact, to dig well back into the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, to find the roots of the present.

The scope may recall Brogan; the approach is closer to McLuhan. He is more concerned with "style" than content, more interested in the evidence than in the theoretical. "Most people most of the time," he writes, "were not... preoccupied with the great public issues of the day, but would spend their waking hours doing, and thinking about, relatively mundane things."

Fiction

A Hole in the Head

(Martin Brian & O'Keefe, £4)

Kramer's War

By Derek Robinson

(Hamish Hamilton, £3.95)

Emily Brontë would admire Francis Stuart's new novel, *A Hole in the Head*. For mercy's sake, she inspired it, and she drew it into the world of political kidnapping, bomb plotting, routine torture and children's gleeful stories of how Strontium 90 affects the unborn. "In the deepest dungeons of Angria and Zamorna," she protests, "we never imagined anything like that."

In the first part of this extraordinary book, she embodies a permanent spiritual agent—and not only to the narrator, Barnaby Shane. It is all so gracefully written, with heart and humour, that the fine technique of unifying inner images and fantasy with outside reality is unobtrusive. Barnaby Shane tells how his life is illuminated by his love for Emily Brontë.

Poivre's Christmas and there is another that is simply brilliant on its own terms (How a corpse's arm can be smuggled past MacDonnell's impeccable servants). As for the trials, you get learning, you get eccentricities galore, you get marvellously inappropriate metaphors, you get sharp literary cracks, you get funny names (and funny names are funny), you get the apparently ridiculous eventually delightfully accounted for.

It is, of course, not only in one of the great traditions of the crime story, it is in a noble tradition of English writing. Here are words delighted in for themselves and the fancy-rousing combinations they can be made to make. It is in the line that goes back not only through Innes but through N. P. Simpson, through Beachcomber, through Wodehouse, through a major strain of Dickens, through Sterne, to Urquhart's punch-drunk rendering of Rabelais. And, of all, what Hamlet called the glimpses of the moon are in Devon. Professor Fen in

eating, working, travelling to see from work, watching television, visiting friends and relatives...

Over the years, Mr Snowman has assiduously collected oddments—menus, news items, quotations—that embody the two-way mirror of Anglo-American society. This magpie's nest is the imaginative heart of the book. The examples are often brilliant. Who else would link the rise in food and drink ads to popular literature's unprecedented obsession with oral sex? A culture of licking and sucking.

He is less successful when he gets less detailed. His more panoramic chapters draw rather too much on what is already half-familiar: Tocqueville on America, for example, or Geoffrey Gorer on the English. Nor, to be frank, did I feel that the book quite got anywhere at the end. But I enjoyed the journey along the way, even when I disagreed.

Perhaps to his own disadvantage, the never pushes his argument too hard. Thus, he quotes Richard Hoggart on the (presumed) working class temptation to live "in a constant present". Since all the world is assumed to be one chaotic mess, it is not surprising that the future automatically supersedes and is preferable to all in the past, the past becomes the past, the future is the future, and the present is the present.

But Hoggart was publishing those words as early as 1957, less than halfway through Daniel Snowman's 30-year "era of change". As Mr Snowman himself underlines, the changes since 1945 have perhaps not been as great as we sometimes like to think. Similarly, despite everything, America remains very American, and Britain very British.

Paul Barker

whose phantom is his saving companion after he tries to shoot himself; quarrels with his wife have left both his wife and himself in a state of confusion; he has been mindfully measured, not reaching fully into the passionate centres of destruction and destruction's kin.

Emily says better things of him. Perhaps the measuring, at the time, was vital. His solicitude for her is equally discerning: "I looked on one severed artery draining her life away into her fiction." At a clinic he asks to have her lungs X-rayed; he is receiving very relaxed therapy in what appears to be a Radcliffe near Belfast in reality overlapping with biographical memories as well as images of Brontë Country, particularly from Emily's Gondal poems. But what he has found one of the Brontës notebooks, and it is wonderful if this prompts rereadings of Emily's writing but Mr Stuart's novel on its own gives huge imaginative pleasure. Emily is guided among paras, provos, and two militant children later partly rescued by Barnaby who meditates on the apparently ridiculous rebellion, many-sided righteous-

ness and his uneasiness among politicians are incisive. But the scenes integrating Emily have, and understand, genius.

How many people are born combative, extending belligerence even to their own emotions and, mostly, in multiplying damage? Considering this question in *Kramer's War*, Derek Robinson produces several stimulating, quiet shocks. Mr Robinson, who is the Booker Prize shortlist in 1971, is nimble with diverse, complex views in a skilfully readable narrative. About a third of his story is seen through the skewed eyes of a young, unstable, weirdly impulsive American, Earl Kramer, who leads on Jersey's beach after a bombing raid on the island, and the islanders and occupying German troops account for the rest that happens.

During one long weekend in June, 1944, immediately before D-Day, Kramer tries to rouse himself since 1940, more than 25,000 German troops have regarded themselves as the spearhead here of the Third Reich, only 90 miles from the English coast, and the island, bristling with Nazi fortifications like a concrete hedgehog, has no apparent resistance movement. Singlehandedly, Kramer starts a bit of sabotage. The Nazis order one in 10 islanders to be shot as reprisals. Up to

A valiant defence

Mary of Guise

By Rosalind K. Marshall

(Collins, £5)

There is a widely disseminated illusion that women exercised no influence on politics until a few exhibitionists gathered together in New York and ceremoniously turned their backs. It would be a pity to explode an entertaining fallacy, but one might usefully reflect, for instance, on the way a considerable power which sixteenth-century women rulers and regents brought to bear on their society. They included Mary Tudor, Elizabeth Tudor, Mary, Queen of Scots, Catherine de Medici, Mary of Guise, to say nothing of the long reign of the dowry and mistress of politicians and kings. The trouble is that too much attention has been paid to what better and disappointed men like John Knox wrote about women and too little to what a few women have done.

We may take Mary of Guise as our example. First she was the mother of Mary, Queen of Scots, about as much as—perhaps more than—most people know about her. But Rosalind K. Marshall's biography which is a compassionate, comprehending and based upon fruitful researches into the French and Scottish records. Born in 1515 into an aristocratic family which stood close to the French monarchy, the daughter of a distinguished soldier, Mary at the age of nineteen married the Duke of Longueville and was widowed three years later in 1537, having

borne one son and already pregnant with another. As was the practice in those days she was sent back to the marriage market, though not of choice. Among the candidates was Henry VIII, who found it hard to believe that the lady declined. She was big in person, he told a French diplomat, and he needed a big wife, which prompted the observation from Mary herself that she might be big in person but she had a small neck!

Perhaps in the end she did worse. She married James V of Scotland in 1538, as a diplomatic pawn in Franco-Scottish relations, and was soon caught up in the squallid baronial intrigue of the northern realm, made worse by the neurotic extravagances and capricious infidelities of her young husband. She bore three sons and three daughters. Within a week of her birth the king was dead. At 27 Mary of Guise was widowed for the second time. Her two Scottish sons were already dead. Later on her surviving French son would die in his boyhood. Only this week-old daughter, already Queen of Scotland, survived. What chance had such a child at such a time in such a place?

It is impossible here to enter into the appalling tangle of internal and diplomatic affairs in which Mary of Guise was now involved. She possessed a good deal of the equipment of a stateswoman. She was strong-willed, resourceful, devoted, immensely energetic but, above all, she was passionately resolved to preserve the "and alliance" against the common enemy, England. She became

in due course the unpopular regent of an imperious and resentful, her years dominated by war, her death a tragedy. She died, a tragic death in 1560 in her thirtieth year.

Mrs Marshall has made a valiant defence of Mary of Guise which helps to see her more clearly than the monstrous prejudices of John Knox. But she protests too much. She contrasts her with Elizabeth and her with Catherine. Yet this preceding chapters have shown Mary's marriage to both France and England. And the author herself gives an account of how Mary intrigued her way into the regency by viewing from some angle her life assumes the tragic dimensions of that of her daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots.

Joel Hurstfield

Games of skill

Total Poker

By David Spanier

(Secker & Warburg, £3.90)

David Spanier, the blurb says, learned poker the usual way, at Cambridge University reading English under Dr Leavis. Whatever F. R. Leavis may think of that, the way I learnt cards was always to play the usual way, in any army barracks on payday. Even so, *Total Poker* suggests that Mr Spanier learnt a considerably better game than I did, and his patient guidance through the intricacies of bluffing, odds and the finer points of such variations as "hold 'em", "five card stud" and "razz" reminds me why I have hardly touched cards since leaving the army, meanwhile belatedly revealing to me some of the ways Private Tom Wilson was able to double his wages at the game every month.

As all winners do, Mr Spanier defends poker's reputation as a game of skill, arguing that luck works out the same for everyone. His conviction that once skill is acquired, winning is up to the player's attitude is backed up with copious statistical and psychological research and examples from games. Although this own erudition is clearly the result of a mis-spent adulthood, his close analysis of bluffing as a technique and his eye on what would be the psychology of players should help aspiring sharks to improve their game.

While his chapter on odds, with tables showing the chances of getting particular hands in different games, is probably the most useful, the joy of the book lies in its single-minded application of the rules of poker to life in general; particularly, however, to American life. He traces the game from its beginnings in New Orleans to its appearance in the *Great Gatsby*. He points out that Richard Nixon's political career was founded on poker.

the past 50 years or so. It could be a namedropper's almanac; but Nabokov has been a noted storyteller since childhood, and retains total recall of his life so that the stories he tells as lively as continuous and painful.

Whom the Gods Love: Boyd Alexander's Expeditions, 1904-07 and 1908-10, by Joan Alexander (Heinemann, £4.90). Boyd Alexander's journey from the Niger to the Nile in 1904-7 ranks as one of the great explorations of Africa. Yet, unlike Burton, Livingstone, Stanley, he is scarcely remembered today. The orders were already safely on their pedestals by the time he began his journeys and the authorities tended to regard him as a time-consuming, expensive interloper. (He met a violent death at the hands

of Wadi tribesmen in 1910 at the age of 37.) A brilliant naturalist, he was an outstanding, if late, example of an Englishman of the *grande époque*, though (but never brutal), debonair, fearless: the type that Henry James called "opaque in intellect but indomitable in muscle". Joan Alexander has done his rather clouded memory ample justice.

Save the City: A Conservation Study of the City of London, edited by David Lloyd (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, £3). This exposes the weaknesses of the City Corporation's conservation strategy and the Square Mile's crying conservation needs. Mammoth must be put in his place if the remaining treasures are to survive. This excellent volume shows how.

The Disinheriting Party, by John Clute (Allison & Busby, £4.50, £2.95). Starts with clear vigour. An aggrieved young man is sent to a boarding school, shipping union leavers in Manhattan who want to ruin his shipowning father. The tale then takes off into stylized violence and sex—one character is androgynous, and relationships are equally primed. What comes through most of me, though, is John Clute's succinct talent, the affecting dread of age (it's a first novel), and the warnings against lovelessness.

The Albatross Muff, by Barbara Hamman (Chatto & Windus, £4.50). A tender and intensely individual adventure into middle-class Victorian roots. In 1855 a 10-year-old girl travels reluctantly from Australia in a boat that takes four months to reach England. During about a decade, she becomes the centre of an astonishing amount of intrigues in suburban London; the version of events is here, substantiated with tough eagerness by another adolescent girl's seduction coasts villainy, and women just wait to death. Ms Hamman's touch remains light while suggesting women's

winnings and that the Cuban missile crisis was played like a poker hand. Taking time to look at poker in the movies, he gets down to a more serious discussion of the psychology of male chauvinism.

Wisely, his eye still on the percentages, the book is written in enthusiastic American and most of the money figures are given in dollars. He offers some bleepy-eyed and colourful reminiscences of poker in the past, including look at the World Poker Championships and the champions Puggy Pearson and Amarillo Slim; his own games range from regular play at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, to a backroom on the Strand and confrontations with the elderly ladies at Crockett's—"that stately survival of a Victorian gaming club in Carlton House Terrace, London—before it was turned into a cinema."

Ned Chaillet

Quick guide

Ragazh, by Nicolas Nabokov

(Secker & Warburg, £6.50)

Nicolas Nabokov, the Russian-born, now American and likewise wholly cosmopolitan musician and writer whose *Ragazh* makes even more cogent autobiographical reading, spent his early years in Russia, had to escape as an aristocratic child during the revolution, and has since worked fruitfully and amicably in France, Germany and America. He, his friends and colleagues have included Dischley (a cousin), Stravinsky, Auden, Willy Brandt, Isadora Duncan (a weird episode involving Harry Kessler), and almost every other leading artistic personality of

the cliffhanging end, Jersey's representatives insist it's best to discipline the islanders' energy into engaging the German war effort, and to be used for the Nazis, is a strategic disaster, a military blunder and a total waste of time. Derek Robinson is next on the million-dollar force, and his descriptions, based on sound research, I think, are especially successful on St Helier's Georgian squares, the marketing of turkeys, and the exhausted, isolated wartime bureaucracy. Don't be put off by the meaningless walk.

Walk Soft in the Field, by David R. Nixon (Chatto & Windus, £3.95). An old shepherd in the Chiltern Hills advises his apprentice to learn to walk soft in the field. He does, and the love of the land, of shepherding is so vivid, exactly recording farm language in the Chilterns, Scotland, that I feel two counties say my apprenticeship in dry-walling, shearing, lambing. What else happens? There's less than one page when the younger shepherd goes to war (in 1944) and later studies "fairly basic farming" in college. Brooding doesn't overtake breeding in this unusual novel.

A Nest of Rats, by John Wain (Macdonald, £2.50). Read Wainwright, he is a considerable writer as this hard moral probe into our secret services simply proves. Well-used facts, well-used words.

Hostage, London, by Geoffrey Household (Michael Joseph, £3.95). The currently popular thriller with no more a bomb tale made into tough novel-of-ideas. Probably too bleak (diary form is disadvantageous) to be properly effective.

The Institute, by James M. Cain (Hale, £3.60). *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, 1934, and still going strong with this story of amour fou and murder among America's ultra-rich. Direct, powerful.

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Myrna Blumberg

The Liars, by Peter Hill (Peter Davies, £3.50). Bizarre murder in Cornwall and a full, most thoroughly absorbing account of the investigation with neatly, spicily and unnecessarily sandwiched in.

Paper Money, by Zachary Stone (Collins, £2.95). All on a London day high-finance skulduggery, a million-pound heist and a journalist's jawbreaker. Chock-a-block with interesting usual facts, bit over-explicit.

Deomads Contract, by Tony Williamson (Collins, £3.50). Topical as today's paper one about fissile material theft in Nevada. Saudi Arabia, Windward, Los of sex violence, well-sorted-up facts.

H.R.F. Keating

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PARLIAMENT, May 11, 1977

Fresh joint enterprise on Rhodesia by Britain and United States

House of Commons

The establishment of a consultative group on Rhodesia headed by Mr. J. A. N. Graham, Deputy Under Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, who will leave for Africa next week, was announced by Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in a statement.

Dr Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, Lab) said: Discussions of the Rhodesian question have taken place with the United States Government over the past three weeks. I met Mr Vance on May 6. We were in full agreement on the best way to carry matters forward.

Both Governments wish to reiterate their determination to work for the independence of Rhodesia under majority rule in 1978. There have been extensive and detailed consultations about an independent constitution and the necessary transitional arrangements. It could be a satisfactory way to achieve this.

They have therefore agreed that Britain and the United States should now enter into a phase of intensive consultations with the parties.

For this purpose, HM Government have decided to establish a consultative group to make contact with the parties, which will visit the area as necessary, including Salisbury. It will be headed by Mr J. A. N. Graham, Deputy Under Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He will leave for Africa next week.

Mr Vance has agreed to appoint a senior United States official to work with the head of the British consultative group.

Mr John Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Knutsford, Cheshire, Con), said: "Whilst not wishing to take an unduly 'I told you so' attitude, I am congratulating Dr Owen on step by step moving closer and closer to the views expressed by the Opposition for a considerable time."

We welcome the setting up of the consultative group and we welcome the proposed United States participation which we have long thought desirable.

Will Dr Owen say something more on the precise terms of reference of the consultative group and the time that is laid down for its work?

We still believe as part of this solution in the presence of a mission in Salisbury of 200 residents to keep the group and Dr Owen fully informed. Will the setting up of this group in any way limit his involvement in the settlement of these matters?

We are concerned that in a way, the way the Government have handled these matters from the time of the Kissinger initiative has been to keep the group and Dr Owen fully informed.

We hope Dr Owen is aware of the extreme importance of this problem. How does he mean to consult the whole people of Rhodesia in accordance with the United States principle which the Government and the Opposition are deeply attached to?

Dr Owen—I deliberately did not have precise terms of reference and I do not think it would be a help at this stage.

I stated a great deal of urgency to this and that is why the consultative group is starting next week and will stay there. I hope to have a report back to me in early June.

I have throughout been open-minded about establishing a mission in Salisbury. I think this is the right moment but the consultative group will be visiting Salisbury.

I shall stand ready to chair any committee if we were to decide that was the right way of doing it.

It is too early to decide the whole of the Rhodesian situation. It is too early to decide the whole of the Rhodesian situation. It is too early to decide the whole of the Rhodesian situation.

I recognize that the House will want the solution to be one which commands the support of the majority in Rhodesia.

Mr Jeremy Thorpe (North Devon, Lab)—Will the consultative group be all British? Will American involvement be on a purely consultative basis or will they be members? Where will the group be based? Will it merely be reporting to the Government or will it have powers to negotiate?

Dr Owen—British representatives will work under my authority and will be contributing to the work. They will not make any major decisions; I will make them on behalf of and in consultation with the Government. Members from the United States will operate under the same arrangement.

There has been and will continue to be close cooperation between Mr Vance and myself and the British and American Governments and between the Prime Minister and President Carter.

It is a joint enterprise. We are trying to sound out opinion. We will be putting forward suggestions but also listening and trying to reach a consensus about a possible transition to majority rule under a constitution and a method of election that will give an independent Zimbabwe in 1978.

Mr Bernard Braine (South East Essex, Con)—It is unrealistic to think that much progress can be made in this direction unless there is a guarantee of an understanding of the Rhodesian economy during the transition to majority rule.

Dr Owen—What is often referred to as the Rhodesian Development Fund, initially suggested by Dr Kissinger, is very much part of the package of proposals. I am anxious to discuss this. This is one of the central reasons why United States involvement is necessary.

It is important to ensure an independent Zimbabwe of economic prosperity and stability and, in a sense, the development fund can make a contribution to that. It is extremely important.

Mr Martha Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab)—When the Kissinger proposals were forthcoming, the front line president rejected the involvement of the United States in anything to do with Rhodesia. It was the second time, the front line president once again made clear they do not want the involvement of the United States in Africa.

The attempted involvement of America conveyed the impression that we cannot go ahead on our own—(Conservative laughter and shouts of "What rubbish?")—and is definitely slowing down the whole process of democratisation of Rhodesia. If the Americans were to come in, undoubtedly the Soviet Union would want to come in too. (Conservative shouts of "Non-sense.")

Dr Owen—There were undoubtedly some misunderstandings about the proposals put forward by Dr Kissinger.

Mr Flannery—Vietnam! Mr Flannery—Vietnam! Mr Flannery—Vietnam!

Dr Owen—Mr Flannery must recognize that the Rhodesian situation is extremely complex. It is not the case that the front line president objected to the proposal. I put forward a wide range of proposals to all five front line presidents. They said they would continue to support the transition to majority rule.

They wanted a peaceful transition to majority rule that expressed the wishes of the Rhodesian people. They positively supported the proposals.

Mr Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler (North-West Norfolk, Con)—The Rhodesian situation is extremely complex. It is not the case that the front line president objected to the proposal. I put forward a wide range of proposals to all five front line presidents. They said they would continue to support the transition to majority rule.

Dr Owen—I wish the existing level of violence would not escalate but there is a tragic history. There is a tragic history. There is a tragic history.

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crucial to any settlement. Unless this agreement is accepted by the people of Rhodesia, it does not matter whether it is accepted by this House or the front line presidents. It must be based on one man one vote, in order that we can be sure that Zimbabweans have accepted it.

Dr Owen—I agree the franchise is essential to the discussions. I have no doubt that the widest franchise will be the widest acceptance. Any attempt to limit it would raise doubts and questions about its acceptability.

Mr Richard Luce (Shrewsbury, Con)—We should be grateful to the United States for their efforts to facilitate peaceful transition in Rhodesia. This is not in sharp contrast to the activities of the Soviet Union in this area.

Dr Owen—This is one of the challenges western democracies have to face—to be prepared to stand up for democratic principles in Africa and other areas. It is not the case that the front line president objected to the proposal. I put forward a wide range of proposals to all five front line presidents. They said they would continue to support the transition to majority rule.

Dr Owen—Obviously the issue will be discussed. I believe that the franchise should be on the widest possible basis. If it is necessary to give some safeguards for minority rights, we will also be prepared to discuss it. This must be seen in the context of a wide franchise. I have made that clear to Mr Smith and on Rhodesia television.

Mr Peter Baker (Blackpool, South, Con)—Has he made clear to the front line presidents that it is not the case that the front line president objected to the proposal. I put forward a wide range of proposals to all five front line presidents. They said they would continue to support the transition to majority rule.

Dr Owen—Future leaders of Zimbabwe should come as a result of elections fairly held, in which the people of Zimbabwe are free to choose the people who will live under the new constitution.

Mr Alexander Lyall (York, Lab)—The question of the franchise is

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NUJ militants under attack: minister to hold talks on charter

House of Lords

A powerful dedicated group in the National Union of Journalists were constantly pressing for a rigid application of the closed shop and were testing their strength with attempts at political censorship. Lord Owen said in opening a debate on the role of the trade unions in relation to the freedom of the press and broadcasting.

He said that 14 months ago Parliament passed the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Act. The Government hoped that an agreed procedure would be worked out by the end of the year.

At any time the militant left in the NUJ might rule that journalists should not report on Chile, South Africa and Rhodesia or there could be a conspiracy of silence.

On the charter under the chairmanship of Lord Pearce had failed to agree and Mr Albert Booth, the NUJ's general secretary, had the unenviable task of writing his own charter and presenting it to Parliament for approval.

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Licensing centre can improve further

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Minister says prices must be held as low as possible

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University
Students

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EVERY PACKET CARRIES A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Ronald Butt

Can Mrs Thatcher come to terms with state ownership?

What will the Conservatives do when and if they come to power? The likelihood that they will win whenever the election comes must now be reckoned so substantial as to make the question one of real practicality. I therefore hope to apply the question to a number of topics, from time to time, starting today with nationalization.

The Tories, of course, have always been against state ownership. Their position has been rooted in their philosophical and practical belief in the efficacy of private enterprise and the stultifying effect of bureaucracy on personal freedom. On the other hand, they have for a long time had to put up with state owned industries that they cannot hope to dismantle, and to rest content for the most part with trying to impose more testing financial standards on them.

The result has often been to fall between two stools: the Beeching axe that slashed at uneconomic railway lines left the railways no more genuinely commercial (perhaps less) and a great deal less of a genuine public utility which is surely the only real justification for state ownership.

Mrs Thatcher is, tempera-

mentally, probably more hostile to state ownership than any of her recent Tory predecessors. But, of course, she knows as well as they did that she will not be able to dismantle the greater part of state ownership. Publicly owned railways, coal and steel (for which would make the last-named if it were denationalized a second time in its present state?) are here to stay, not to mention the utilities, gas and electricity and the now proliferating Post Office.

On the other hand, Mrs Thatcher's dislike of state ownership is not just a crude, reflex reference back to traditional Conservative attitudes. The Conservatives can fairly claim that they now have the proof of a rather bad pudding from the eating of it in two major respects.

For one thing, it is all too evident that the real test of any government's capacity to keep some sort of overall control over wages (and I do not mean that in terms of conventional pay policies) always runs the greatest risk of being tested to destruction in the public sector. There the government is itself the employer of last resort. If private employers pay more

wages than they can afford, they can either go bust or put up prices, and if inflation results, the government can intervene by controlling the supply of money.

But what is a government to do when it is politically tested by unions using their whole weight for unjustified wages in a public monopoly industry when the government's political popularity may depend on whether or not it will consent to raise a subsidy to pay for higher wages?

In the end, of course, it will, as always, be a matter of political leadership and reason, but nobody can deny that the existence of so high a nationalized proportion of industry, not to mention the government's job as the employer in the social arms of the public sector (in the case of nurses, for instance), makes any government's job harder as it tries to prevent industrial wages pressure being used unreasonably.

As for nationalization as a recipe for avoiding decline, the Neider report on the nationalized industries showed that those nationalized in the 1945-51 period, far from taking an increasing share of output and employment, have diminished in both respects. Only the addi-

tion of new nationalized industries has maintained the proportion of the public sector. On that basis, nationalization is no more likely to be a solution for decking shipbuilding industry than it was for coal and industry. State ownership cannot protect an industry from the facts of industrial life, nationally and internationally.

Yet when all this has been said, it must be added that there could be no question of a major Conservative attempt at denationalization of the long-standing state-owned industries, and that the only measure of recent nationalization that the Conservatives seem absolutely confident of being able to reverse is land—the Community Land Act having plainly come unstuck. But even the Tory approach to shipbuilding and aircraft is wary.

As much as possible of the interests of British Shipbuilders and British Aerospace... should be sold off to the private sector," says the Tory quasi-government manifesto known as *The Right Approach*.

But how much and by what means? Mrs Thatcher should take a great deal can be done to reduce the size of public sector if she has two or three Parliaments in which to do it.

Meanwhile, however, the party does not (at least at the official level) show any great sign of confidence that even the latest measures of nationalization can be substantially reversed. There are schemes of one sort or another being discussed, the idea of issuing shares on a BP pattern is one of them. But even here, the leaders of the party are cautious: they remember that, after all, BP has always been a commercial company; it was never run or planned as a state enterprise.

With this, shall we say, miasma of caution among the official thinkers of the party, as they search for something that is credible as well as politically appealing, particular interest attaches to ideas voiced from the Tory backbenches. One of the most interesting appeared last week in a speech by Mr Tim Renton, the Conservative MP for Mid-Sussex.

Mr Renton started by pointing out that, since ownership involves responsibility, it follows that all governments feel responsible for nationalized industries and therefore intervene in matters of pricing, employment and investment.

The nationalized industries' executive boards are also faced with something like "a daily annual general meeting" in the shape of questioning politicians.

Mr Renton (rightly, I think) sees no answer in the reform of board structures, so as to isolate the nationalized executives from ministers and Parliament. This would be only extra "wrapping" paper, through which the management would have to struggle before getting down to real business. The NEDG solution of "policy councils" would just be another layer of "wise men"; the management would still have to produce its plans and ministers would still change them for the sake of short-term objectives.

Mr Renton's solution is to change the ownership, introducing private capital and split the responsibility between public and private shareholders. He suggests a concrete plan. Next time British Gas needs to raise funds, it could offer on the free market, unsecured loan stock that was convertible into ordinary shares. It would have to be done in an attractive commercial situation (as in the case of British Gas

which is moving into a period of regular profitability and big technical development) since the financial institutions and private buyers would not buy "into loss-making situations".

If such an offer was successful, reasons Mr Renton, British Gas would be converting its loan stock into equity "and within five years' time 10 per cent of British Gas's equity is thus quietly placed in non-government hands". Now you may ask, what is the practical, as distinct from the sentimental, use of having a small portion of the industry denationalized, when ownership and decisions remain with the nationalized majority share?

Mr Renton's answer is concrete. If the nationalized industry was required to act uncommercially for social reasons, its board "would be able to point to the existence of their private shareholders as an overwhelming argument" for not obeying the minister unless they were properly paid for doing so. Mr Renton believes that the moral and legal position of the minority private shareholders would be strong,

and building on the present law on minority shareholders' rights, he believes that only a small change in company law would be enough to enable private shareholders to either the management or the government for "oppression of the minority" if ministers tried to foist uncommercial objectives or prices on the board.

This, he believes, would help free the nationalized board from government interference. If it worked with British Gas, it would work with other industries. Their loan stock to equity, for example could be followed by BNOG, the telecommunications division of the Post Office, or even the National Enterprise Board, all using private ownership, with its rights as a buffer against the government.

Would it work? Obviously there are snags. How do you tackle the problems of industries which do not make money? If you sell off a profit-making plant, it is this pricing the rest. Mr Renton's is an intellectually respectable argument, and much more concrete than anything yet heard from the party's official voices. It deserves thinking about.



Labour's by-election losers: D. J. Winnick (Walsall North); M. Cowan (Ashfield); T. Davis (Stechford); D. Campbell-Savours (Workington).

After Labour's spectacular defeats, the future looks far from rosy

Labour's spectacular by-election defeats have prompted questions about its long-term electoral prospects. Do Workington, Walsall North, Stechford and Ashfield reflect no more than the normal mid-term unpopularity of the party in office, or do they imply a deeper-lying and more permanent disenchantment with Labour?

Labour optimists can make two points. First, the fall in Labour's share of the vote is no worse than it was in 1968/69 or indeed than that suffered by the Conservatives at Sutton, Ely and Ripon in 1972/73 (although the latter were the Liberals rather than Labour). But these comparisons are misleading.

Labour's by-election humiliations in the late 1960s occurred after its exceptionally strong showing in the 1966 general election, when its 48 per cent share of the vote included many "unattached" voters. This had an unusually large number of voters "at risk" in the by-elections that followed. So for similar reasons did the Conservatives after 1970.

Labour's losses in the recent by-elections, however, have come after its much poorer showing in the October 1974 election, when it won only 39 per cent of the poll, almost all of whom will have been regular Labour supporters. This time Labour has therefore had many fewer voters "at risk" and should have incurred milder adverse swings. The fact that its percentage vote losses equal those of the late 1960s suggests a quite abnormal erosion of support, even for a government in mid-term.

Labour also takes comfort from the regularity with which successive governments since the mid-1950s have recovered from dramatic setbacks in by-elections and local elections to win the subsequent election (the Conservatives in 1959) or at least force it to a close finish (the Conservatives in 1964 and Labour in 1970).

The forces sustaining this stabilizing electoral cycle, however, may be declining. In the past they have relied on the ability of the government of the day to manipulate the

	All Labour Identifiers	Change 1964-74
% Labour identifiers: Who do not believe that trade unions have "too much power"	59	-15%
Whose sympathies are generally for strikers	37	-14%
In favour of retaining close ties between the trade unions and the Labour Party	38	-9%
In favour of nationalizing more industries	57	-7%
In favour of spending more on the social services	89	-28%
Believing that big business has "too much power"	80	+3%
Average	60	-12%

	Labour identifiers who are manual workers, and trade unionists (or their family dependents) and under 45	Change 1964-74
		-24%
		-11%
		-21%
		-18%
		-37%
		+3%
		-18%

economy to its advantage in the election run-up. But the fragility of sterling, the conditions attached to the IMF loan, and the sheer economic consequences of such irresponsibility probably make this option less available to the present Government than to any other since the war.

The electoral cycle also rests on the deep and enduring attachments that most voters have traditionally held for one or other party attachments which sustain loyalty in times of doubt or disappointment, and thus save unpopular governments from electoral burial.

Political scientists divide such attachments into three kinds. First, *ties of habit*: the loyalty engendered by family, upbringing and neighbourhood tradition. Secondly, the *ties induced by membership* of a social group.

Outside Ulster this basically amounts to a sense of belonging (or equally of not belonging) to the working class and the trade union movement, accompanied by the belief that Labour represents the interests of both. And thirdly, there are *ideological ties*.

Election surveys conducted since the early 1960s suggest, however, that these attachments have been gradually weaken-

ing. Psychological ties, for example, are conventionally measured by asking electors whether they "think of themselves" as Conservative, Labour, Liberal, etc. followed by the question: "And how strongly Conservative, Labour, etc. do you feel?" In 1964 the proportion of Labour and Conservative supporters describing themselves as very strong identifiers was 47 per cent; 10 years later it was down to 31 per cent.

The tie between class and party has weakened in parallel fashion. For one thing, the very notion of belonging to a social class has become less acceptable to British electors. In 1964 50 per cent were willing to give themselves a class label. A decade later, despite the revival of industrial militancy and the politics of class under the Heath administration, indeed perhaps because of it, the proportion had slipped to 43 per cent. And within the social classes support for their "natural" class party has also declined: between 1964 and 1974 the proportion of manual workers who "thought of themselves as Labour" fell from 58 per cent to 54 per cent; and the proportion of the middle class—the professions, managers and administrators and who "thought of themselves" as Conservative plummeted

from 67 per cent to 49 per cent. only to have diminished but also to have lost its partisan force.

The most intriguing change, however, relates to ideological ties, for here the positions of the two main parties diverge. Among Conservatives approval of their party's major policy positions has been consistently strong since the early 1950s. Whatever the source of the massive fall in the Conservative vote in 1974 it does not seem to be disaffection from the party's basic principles (as opposed, perhaps, to the particular record of the Heath government).

In Labour's ranks, however, the last decade has witnessed a major haemorrhaging of support for the main policy tenets of the party. There is clear evidence of increasing hostility to Labour's traditional allies, the trade unions. In 1964 a majority of Labour supporters denied that trade unions were too powerful; by 1974 a majority agreed.

Declines of general sympathy for strikers slipped from 37 per cent to a minuscule 23 per cent. Endorsement of the party's links with the trade unions, which was never strong, slipped from 38 per cent to 21 per cent. Support for further nationalization—a principle enshrined in the party constitu-

tion—fell from 57 per cent to 50 per cent. And perhaps most significant of all, there has been a large drop in approval for what is generally regarded as Labour's strongest suit—spending on the social services—from 89 per cent in 1964 to 60 per cent 10 years later.

Only the belief that big business is too powerful has been steadily and heavily upheld in this period.

Only two of the six Labour "positions" listed in the table were supported by even a bare majority of Labour's own supporters. It is difficult to conceive of a party avoiding long-term decline if the majority of its surviving supporters reject the majority of its basic policies.

The implications for Labour are even more disturbing than the figures suggest. For ideological disaffection has grown faster in some sectors of Labour support than others. Labour's younger middle class supporters, for example, are now the staunchest upholders of its traditional principles. Its younger working class and trade unionist supporters, on the other hand, have abandoned Labour policy positions faster than any other group. And it is on this large latter group—Labour's traditional "core"—that Labour will necessarily rely most heavily in the future.

Of course, nothing in a trend guarantees its continuation. It could be stopped by a vigorous and imaginative presentation of both the Government's case and Labour's principles generally—as the Grimby result shows. But should the erosion of Labour loyalties continue the Government will be less able than its predecessors to avoid massive defeat at the next election through reliance on the normal electoral cycle.

A detailed report appears in the latest issue of the *British Journal of Political Science*. The report is on surveys conducted by the British Election Study at the University of Essex.

Ivor Crewe

The author is Professor Director of The British Election Study at the University of Essex.

The Jewish drop-outs putting emigration from Russia at risk

In 1971 the Soviet Union began to permit the emigration of appreciable numbers of Jews. This is important in the USSR and some rationale had to be found for allowing them to go since, as a matter of policy, the state prohibits emigration of its citizens.

In fact, the new policy was the reluctant response of the Krenin to persistent and world-wide protests. But this could not, of course, be publicly admitted so the theory was propounded that, because Soviet Jewry is recognized as a nationality but does not have a republic of its own in the USSR (Jews should be able to go to their homeland (Israel) there to be reunited with their families. That is why almost all Jews who have left the Soviet Union have gone with Israeli visas).

In the early years of emigration, that is, until 1973, Jews who left were those who felt their Jewish identity most strongly. They were the people who had understood the crushing power of the state to demand the right to go; the idealists who opposed Soviet rule with their desire to live in the Jewish state. But as emigration continued, the people who had understood the crushing power of the state to demand the right to go; the idealists who opposed Soviet rule with their desire to live in the Jewish state. But as emigration continued, the people who had understood the crushing power of the state to demand the right to go; the idealists who opposed Soviet rule with their desire to live in the Jewish state.

government to the nostrim is that Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to countries other than Israel should apply for visas to those countries. Obviously this would make it more difficult for the intending emigrant to get out but that is felt to be preferable to condoning the abuse of Israeli visas as a pretext for going elsewhere. The responsible officials fear that the whole programme of Jewish emigration from Russia could be at risk if the Soviet authorities took up the position that they were being duped.

The proportion of the view go further and say that if a Jew with an Israeli visa arrives in Vienna—the first stopping place outside Russia—and there decides that he does not want to go to Israel, he should not receive assistance from Jewish public funds. The object of this seems to be both penalizing the individual for his own misrepresentation and discouraging others from following the same course. An Israeli visa given to someone who does not use it, deprives another Russian Jew of his place in the emigration queue.

This is a very emotive issue for Jews and Mr Abba Eban, a former Israeli Foreign Minister, has expressed his objection to the official line. In a message to American Jews he declared that "Jews who emigrate from the Soviet Union to the United States which Israel views as a great disservice to the central interests of the Jewish people". But he continued with the hope that "American Jews will reject any advice to withhold aid and compassion from Soviet Jews who reach a free haven anywhere in the world".

Two of Israel's leading newspapers have taken diametrically opposing views on the issue. An editorial in the *Jerusalem Post* urged that drop outs should not be aided by Jewish public funds. The *Haaretz* (roughly the Jewish equivalent of *The Times*) argued the opposite, and to these people would transgress a cardinal Jewish moral principle and that the rescue of Jews from a country where they cannot maintain their Jewishness is an imperative, irrespective of their desertion.

Nowhere is the discussion more intense than in the United States where a Jewish population of some six million, almost half the total of world Jewry, actively aware of their own immigrant origins, are particularly sensitive to the needs of oppressed Jews. The relief organization which has long distinguished itself in this field, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) has, despite some urgings to the contrary,

continued giving help to the nostrim in their efforts to settle in the United States and other non-Israel destinations.

This has not pleased everybody and there are strong Zionist organizations in the United States say that, apart from the issue of misuse of Israeli visas, giving such help only encourages the movement away from Israel, the Jewish state, and that there is no obligation on the part of Jewish people to finance nostrim in "their search for a warm and comfortable spot".

A rather different opinion is voiced by Dr Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Romania, whose view is that it is the survival of Judaism, not individual Soviet Jews, that is threatened in the Soviet Union. He suggests that Jews who want to leave Jewish lands will go to Israel, while those only determined to go elsewhere—which they are entitled to do—will be lost to Judaism. He resolutely opposes the use of Jewish funds to help those who emigrate for economic rather than spiritual reasons.

To decide what policy should be applied in the face of these conflicting opinions, a committee was set up last summer composed of four Jewish and four American representatives. The Committee of Eight, as it became known, proposed that only Soviet Jews sincerely intending to emigrate to Israel should apply for an Israeli visa, and that those who look to the United States should apply for a visa to that country. In both cases, the Jewish organizations would give help where possible. It also recommended that if an emigrant, on arrival in Vienna, changed his mind about his destination, he should receive no further help from Jewish public funds.

These proposals satisfied the Israelis who are eager for more immigrants. But the American Jewish public relations committee expressed objections in a rare instance of diaspora Jewry resisting the hitherto unquestioned leadership of Israel in major Jewish concerns.

As a result, the committee, now ten in number, has taken back the proposals for further consideration.

The interest that President Carter had shown in human rights is bound to strengthen the case of American Jews. The outcome of the issue will not only affect the future of Soviet Jewish emigration but may go much further and spark off a fresh evaluation of the relationship between Israel and the Jewish diaspora.

William Frankel

The Times Diary

Putting some push into jubilee

If you have not yet decided how best to celebrate Jubilee week, you could do worse than retrieve that rusty old bicycle from the garden shed and saddle up for Jubilee Bike Week. This will have the threefold effect of working off the excess fat acquired at any other joyous junketings you may be attending, toning up the heart muscles so that you have a sporting chance of living to see the Golden Jubilee, and raising money for the British Heart Foundation.

Bike Week was announced by the British Cycling Bureau at a press conference yesterday, and just to make sure everyone got the message Katie Boyle, the celebrity, rode a bicycle round the country's 12 million cyclists to take part, though not in their living rooms.

The idea is that if you have a bike, you get all your friends to sponsor you for every mile you cycle during Bike Week, then hand the money over to the British Heart Foundation.

Sponsorship forms are being distributed to cycle shops, and there are prizes, including a cycling holiday in Holland.

Dr Malcolm Carruthers, a heart specialist and author of *The Western Way of Death*, extolled the virtues of cycling, describing it as much healthier than "silly" exercises like press-ups, and particularly suitable for overweight people. He introduced Percy Smith, who in spite of being 63 and having a pacemaker fitted to his heart, will start the Bike Week with a 500-mile sponsored cycle round British holiday camps.

After the cavalcade of Rolls-Royces at Windsor, there is to be a cavalcade of old bicycles, and the organizers will present a silver model to Prince Philip for the Jubilee appeal fund.

"I understand," said a man from the Cycling Bureau confidently, "that the Queen cycle, but I've never seen her do it."

Another highlight of the week will be a marathon 1,000-mile journey by 12 veteran cyclists from Buckingham Palace to

Balmoral, setting off on June 5. Sir George Young, MP for Acton and chairman of the all-party parliamentary cycling group, reported that a growing number of MPs were taking two wheels, and that London cyclists were pressing for more cycleways in Hyde Park. "It would cost next to nothing and keep the cyclists off Park Lane," said Sir George, who cycles daily to the Commons from Acton.

But there are disadvantages, as Sir George found out recently. Cycling through the park one night after a late sitting, he was halfway across when the park keepers shut the gates for the night and locked them. He only escaped by hoisting himself and his machine over the railings.

The West Somerset Free Press reports that an experimental "adding-up course" at Wellington, aimed at teaching elementary arithmetic to adults, "is attracting countless numbers, according to the organizer, Mr Tony Byrne". Naturally.

the spring sortie of an organization called the Association des Traditions et Qualités, a self-perpetuating oligarchy and gourmet gastronomic society for the world's leading restaurateurs.

There are only 75 members in the world, the first being hailing from the restaurant Rengya in Tokyo. There is only one qualification for membership—that those who are already members are willing to accept you as a peer.

The party who have been visiting Britain include a clutch of restaurateurs which qualify for the top rating of three stars in the Michelin guides, and a host of accolades from other sources—the Hasebriens from Illhaeusern, a Troisgros brother from Roanne, Lasserre from the most elegant restaurant in Paris and a prelate of all Paris Bouches from Collonges on Mont D'Or, the only cook, surely, to have had his face on the covers of *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *L'Express* all in one month.

During their trip they took sleep here, for most of her childhood, and are in the splendid hall of the old palace, which now does a nice line in Elizabethan banquets. Daytime visitors pay 80p to enter the grounds and house, and can eat in most rooms. In the evening a simple but bright and gleam self-service coffee shop in the

Food Guide, and ended with a gala dinner at the Mirabelle (two stars in *Rosny* and nothing in the *Good Food Guide*).

They did not come to criticize. One of the chefs, in wine and orange sauce with flaked, roasted almonds at the Mirabelle, Bouché, who had left his wife and daughter to run the restaurant, said loyally that while it was almost impossible for restaurants in a large group to be superlative, the Mirabelle was an exception.

He and others expressed apparently genuine sympathy that Giscard d'Estaing, who gave Bouché the Legion d'Honneur in return for a meal at the Elysee, could not be with them. The French President, of course, was eating at Buckingham Palace at the time.

Reputable

Continuing our survey of catering at stately homes, Alan Hamilton took a lunch break at Hatfield House, in Hertfordshire.

Queen Elizabeth really did sleep here, for most of her childhood, and are in the splendid hall of the old palace, which now does a nice line in Elizabethan banquets. Daytime visitors pay 80p to enter the grounds and house, and can eat in most rooms. In the evening a simple but bright and gleam self-service coffee shop in the

Gastronomically, of course, we're right behind you...
A fast turnover kept the queue short, even at the height of the lunch hour. Someone else's leftovers were cleared from the table within five minutes. No pretensions, but attractive, fresh food and a clean atmosphere. And plenty of gleam: rather more money for the crafts exhibition, although you



can watch the blacksmith from the coffee shop window for nothing.
Next: Woburn Abbey and Leeds Castle.

Going

There is already a brisk trade in memorabilia from the Mummers sale, which only starts next week. At Sotheby's yesterday offers of £20 and £30 for complete sets of the Illustrated Catalogue (original price £30) were being briskly rejected.

The commissionaire was also advising people in search of the £3.50 unillustrated catalogue, unobtainable yesterday in London, to invest in any single volume of the remaining illustrated ones, sell it at a profit when they reached Montmorency and buy an unillustrated catalogue there. That is called dealing in the antique trade.

The other day, when I printed a sign outside a typing school and egg dealer, I suggested that it represented the ultimate in polymathy. It is run a close second by an item in the *Times Educational Supplement* entitled the transfer of Professor H. R. Lyle, professor of financial control at University College, Cardiff, to the chair of History at Westfield College, London.

PHS



A NEW PLAN FOR RHODESIA

The fruit of Dr Owen's tour of southern Africa and his discussions last week with Mr Vance, announced yesterday, they amount to the dispatch of a negotiating team under Mr John Graham to do the same round again to make concrete agreements out of Dr Owen's private identification of possibilities of agreement. The co-sponsorship of a conference by Britain and the United States, like the interim arrangements of the Kissinger plan are set aside. But there is to be a senior American official attached to the group, as there was a British official available for consultation in Dr Kissinger's team. Mr Nkomo may use this as an excuse not to play, but it provides the continuing of Anglo-American policy and the best of both worlds. British responsibility is now combined with American power. This is the first condition of success, and will be welcome to Africans who want a peaceful settlement.

Also hopeful was Dr Owen's assurance that this method of carrying matters further is approved by the front-line presidents. Its attraction for them is not far to seek. It keeps discussion with each of them private and bilateral, leaving them to maintain contact with each other. It leaves them uncommitted to details, and to public pressures such as arise out of the set positions taken up at a conference. At the same time the one achievement which the Africans claim from the Geneva conference—a commitment to independence under majority rule by September 1978—is preserved in Dr Owen's formula, though careful reading does not

indicate that everything stands as falls by it. While the objection of Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe to Anglo-American efforts has been met by dropping suggestions for a new conference, Dr Owen has said that he is ready to chair one if the need emerged from the work of the consultative group. It is possible to conceive of agreement being reached on a constitution to be embodied in legislation for the British parliament to enact, purely by bilateral discussions with the parties concerned, though there are obvious difficulties in dispensing with a plenary. The immediate problem of the consultative group is to argue Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe out of a position in which they are demanding a conference which Mr Smith surrenders at discretion, having discovered that his forces can no longer hold their own in the field. There is an attitude which takes no account of the certain preference by the vast majority of black Rhodesians for a transition to majority rule under peaceful auspices. It must be hoped therefore that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe, and presumably the leaders of the guerrillas at the appropriate stage, will co-operate with the group.

Dr Owen's statement revealed nothing of Mr Smith's attitude. The great question is whether he is ready to stand down in 1978, either before or after an election, in favour of a black prime minister. It is still unknown whether he would do so on any terms at all, but it is the terms on which the constitutional discussions turn. Dr Owen's remarks yesterday are indicative under a restricted

franchise, albeit a mistake quickly rectified by the new sovereign government, suggests that he has been discussing the question of safeguards in some detail with Mr Smith. So do his remarks on possible alternatives to an election for establishing a majority consent. What these portend it is hard to surmise. But the white population is not likely to accept the type of franchise which would, by sheer numbers, wipe out every white representative in the Zimbabwe parliament from the morrow of the election. The "sixth principle" requires that the minority should be protected from oppression by the majority. The course of history can best be read in Zambia's precedent, where white representation was gradually phased out, and the whites now keep right out of politics. Evidently Dr Owen still hopes that Zimbabwe will be a fund which will keep white expertise in the new state, and in some way help reinforce formal safeguards, but he is wisely not being specific. The gap between what safeguards Mr Smith would accept in return for his resignation, and those Mr Mugabe would concede or honour is conjectural.

It is increasingly felt that the time is now short for a negotiated settlement. The friends of Rhodesia's white population seem to be worried. The British and American Governments evidently consider that it is urgent for them now to get moderate black regimes in office in Rhodesia and Namibia before they lose all influence over events in southern Africa. Even so, everything still turns on the reactions of Mr Smith and his Government.

MR CARTER'S EAST-WEST SOUNDINGS

President Carter's visit to London has left a distinct tingle in the air. With the public he has established himself as a man with the common touch. Among western politicians he has shown himself realistic, practical, and willing to listen. He has thus achieved one of his main aims in coming, which was to establish personal contact with Europe and to emphasize his commitment to its security. He has also done a lot to dispel the gloomy contemplation of failure which had become habitual in the western alliance over the past few years. He is not blind to the problems which face the alliance, but he has brought back to the White House the traditional American belief in the ability of democratic societies to regenerate from within to meet inner and outer challenges. It is a long time since such infectious optimism emanated from Washington.

If the optimism is to prove justified the momentum generated by the summit and Nato meetings must be maintained. As far as Nato is concerned, yesterday's communiqué is a promising starting point. It rightly emphasizes the need for better cooperation in defence production. Here a lot of work needs to be done on both sides of the Atlantic to improve cooperation among governments and to prevent this cooperation being undermined by the wrong sort of competition among business interests. Enormous improvements in the efficiency of the alliance could be achieved

at no extra cost if the more absurd forms of duplication and incompatibility of weapons systems were eliminated. In more general terms the communiqué strikes about the right balance between confrontation and cooperation. It expresses particular concern about "the continuing growth in the strength and offensive capabilities of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries", and emphasizes the need for adequate defence and deterrence. At the same time it calls for "concrete efforts to reduce the level of armaments through realistic measures of disarmament and arms control". It also invites the Warsaw Pact countries to play a constructive role in north-south relations, which they have hitherto largely refused.

The basic message, in other words, is that Nato is ready for cooperation with the Warsaw Pact but is more determined than ever to maintain its defence until they can be lowered in the context of agreements which ensure undiminished security. Such agreements remain disappointingly elusive, which is one reason for the marked deterioration of east-west relations over the past few years. The west explains this largely as a result of the unbridled build-up of Soviet forces, which has already taken the Soviet Union well past the point of defensive sufficiency. The Russians, seemingly secure in the conviction of their own invincibility, say that western anxieties are the result of hostile

or artificially fomented pressures within western societies. The Russians either cannot or will not see that they bear some responsibility for the reaction which their actions provoke in the West. Perhaps this is a genuine blind spot in their vision, or perhaps it is a result of their own press being so self-congratulatory and uncritical, but until it is overcome there will remain at very least a wide perceptual gap to be bridged. It might help to remember that in social life people who constantly complain about being misunderstood, misinterpreted and mistrusted are not only boring but usually have primarily themselves to blame.

Meanwhile there is an aspect of the problem which is not mentioned in the Nato communiqué but deserves attention. East-West trade was generally promoted in the West as a constituent part of détente in the hope that it would foster interdependence and go hand in hand with arms control, which would help shift emphasis in the communist countries from defence budgets to the needs of the consumer. These assumptions have so far been disappointed, with the result that the West is providing considerable economic aid to the Warsaw Pact in the form of credits and technology which contribute—mostly indirectly by releasing resources—to the defence effort which causes so much concern. It is coming to be time to examine whether the growth of this trade should be linked in some degree with progress towards arms limitation.

THE CANNIBAL BISCUIT

In the last century there is supposed to have been a lady who arranged the books in her library on a systematic basis unknown to John Evelyn. Alphabetical principles were observed only so long as they did not require books by male and female authors to rub shoulders (in no mention of spine) on her shelves. Exceptions were made for Mr and Mrs Browning and other authors who had been married to one another. The motive was propriety: there is no reason to think that she supposed the usual tendency of books to multiply beyond the capacity of the shelving provided or that she was due to interbreed. The idea of inconceivable vortices combining the qualities of Eliot (G) and Eliot (T. S.), terms and -stowe (Harriet Beecher), or Keats and Krupsaya did not dismay her. Even individuals as dour as she usually retain a bottom of good sense.

Not so commissars. Not so the Food Standards Committee. In its latest report it asserts that the digestive biscuit is misleadingly named. To justify its name, said the committee's chairman, Professor Alan Ward, yesterday, the biscuit should have the power of digesting itself. Unless it could be shown to do so, the name should be banned. Cannibalism among biscuits is

admittedly rare, let alone auto-cannibalism. But the purchaser who actually goes out in search of a cannibal biscuit—the only one likely to be disappointed by this interpretation of the name—must be still rarer. Open the packet at tea-time and half of them might be gone if they were believed to feed on themselves. People would surely begin to have fears for the pelicans. A hungry biscuit, the last on the plate, could easily slip under a locked door and digest Aunt Charlotte while she slept.

In fact "digestive" does not simply mean self-digesting, and never has. The Food Standards Committee would have been on better ground if instead of toying with ideas of confectionery suicide it had squarely rested its case on the fact that the word's original sense in English was "promoting or aiding digestion". When Chaucer's Chauntecler wakes up shuddering after a nightmare in which he has been carried off by a terrifying monster which he does not recognize, but which can easily be recognized by the reader as the Food Standards Committee, his wife diagnoses an upset stomach and recommends laxatives (and "digestives of worms" (the original recipe is no longer precisely followed, incidentally). It is idle to deny

that the biscuit was named in Victorian times with a view to encouraging people to think that it did them good. The manufacturers make no claim to medicinal virtues today and it is unlikely that many buyers make the connexion at all.

For the word is moribund in everyday usage except with reference to biscuits. "Doctor, I need a digestive." "Madam, I am not a supermarket." Dictionaries do not acknowledge this development yet, though they take note of many similar ones. Still, they contain enough shades of meaning for the word in question, to confound the Food Standards Committee. "Characterized by bearing without resistance or in silence" (O.E.D.). Who has ever heard a biscuit cry out against its fate? That definition is stigmatized as obsolete, though. But what about "pertaining to digestion"? (O.E.D.) How can a food not pertain to digestion? And, finally, simply, "digestible" (O.E.D. again). It would take a jaundiced critic to deny that. The committee can only make out a convincing case if they are prepared to claim that the digestive is literally indigestible. And if they dare to try that, they all deserve to be thrown to the biscuits.

removed from the genuine feelings of Conservative youth as the NUS is removed from the beliefs of genuine socialists and this is a situation which can only damage the Conservative Party. Yours faithfully, DAVID SOKIN, Ex-President, Oxford University Conservative Association, 29 Stony Rise, Eton College Road, NW3, May 7.

Preserving the British archive

From Dr Michael Howard, FBA
Sir, I hope that the weight of the evidence and of the arguments brought forward by Professor Margaret Gowing and your other correspondents will by now have been clear to your readers that the problem of the public archives is a great deal more serious than the Lord Chancellor would have us believe. Like Professor Gowing I have enjoyed, as an "official historian", privileged access to public records. But this access only enables one to see more clearly the inadequacy of the existing system of accumulating, cataloguing and "weeding" archives in ministries before they pass into the skilled hands of the Public Records Office. To penetrate beyond the smooth laws and grovelled paths of the PRO to the ministerial archives themselves is to find oneself in primeval jungle. In the Foreign and Cabinet Office, arrangements are of course admirable. But in other departments there are simply not enough people to care for the records, and those who are available only too often lack the training which is now essential for the adequate custody of complex modern archives. This I am afraid is particularly true of the enormous amount of material engendered by the Ministry of Defence.

The difference between the situation here and that in the United States is painful. There a single Public Archives Service, staffed by trained professionals, is responsible for the care of documents both in government ministries and in public archives. It is they who are responsible, under governmental directives, for "weeding" and declassification. They are therefore able to provide continuous care for archives from the moment of their formation until they become available to the general public. The service to doubt has its own disadvantages, but as a model it has everything to recommend it above our own dichotomy between, on the one hand, "classified" documents in the care of often unqualified officials, and on the other "open" documents cared for by trained archivists in the PRO.

I hope therefore that you will keep up your pressure for an enquiry into the whole question of the care and custody of public records as a matter of urgency. The arguments for such arrangements will become increasingly evident as the records of the past 30 years become available for public inspection, but by then it will be too late. The problem is one to be solved not so much by spending more money on the archives, but by making better use of the resources we have. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL HOWARD, All Souls College, Oxford, May 9.

Who owns the farmland?

From Mr Roderick Thomson
Sir, Xenophobia seems to be creeping in at the edges of the land ownership question in Britain. Land owners are, for the most part, free market people; they greatly benefit from an unrestricted market in land as sellers. As buyers, we may now be facing the situation Italians and Portuguese found themselves in during the latter half of the nineteenth century: potential buyers of secure land were by the thousands, but the market was too hot; nationals selling out to foreigners in force majeure.

Nothing, of course, turns out quite as one might expect. There is no evidence, for instance, that Arabs or Germans will be careless about land management and desertion. These assumptions have so far been disappointed, with the result that the West is providing considerable economic aid to the Warsaw Pact in the form of credits and technology which contribute—mostly indirectly by releasing resources—to the defence effort which causes so much concern. It is coming to be time to examine whether the growth of this trade should be linked in some degree with progress towards arms limitation.

We may well come to a time when foreign owners become restorers of neglected architecture and, say, large scale tree planters. The record of British landowners in these areas seems in recent years to have been mixed, at best one says, a mixed picture. Yours faithfully, RODERICK THOMSON, Army & Navy Club, Pall Mall, SW1, May 9.

Solar energy

From Mr David Garnett
From Mr David Garnett
Sir, Time has made most of the Great Thinkers who have decided the Scientific look foolish. Dean Sutherland's *Leontia* was particularly remarkable in imagining absurdities which have since been proved to be commonplace truths. When he sat warming himself before his fire, mocking the scientist who had spent eight years trying to extract sunbeams from cucumbers, he was unaware that his flames were sunbeams that is the solar energy which is stored by every green vegetable that grows and on which animal life has up till now been dependent.

But in your issue of April 23, which has just reached me, you record one of the greatest discoveries that man has made. Peter Carden and his fellow workers have found a method of storing solar energy, which enables it to be transported to wherever power is needed. It is typical of our crazy world that Dr Carden's researches, which could, and let us hope will, change the world, should be hampered for lack of money while the governments spend millions on the construction of nuclear power stations which as Lord Rothschild pointed out in your issue of November 27 last, are creating vast quantities of the most deadly poisonous products which cannot be destroyed and imperil the distant future of mankind. Yours sincerely, DAVID GARNETT, Le Vagier de Charty, Montcuq 46800, France, April 27.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Balanced reporting of racial issues

From the Chairman of the Community Relations Council

Sir, Your editorial entitled "Keeping the balance on race" (May 9) is welcome as a serious and careful discussion of the main issues raised in the Community Relations Commission's recently published Memorandum on reporting on race and of the Press Council's reply. We agree with your point that many of the criticisms of newspapers' handling of reports which mislead because they lack a broader context; or of careless propagation of spiritual rumour; are considerations which apply to news in general, but which apply with particular force to the reporting of race relations.

It is, however, important to clear up one misunderstanding which appears to have arisen partly from the Press Council's reply to our Memorandum, which was also reported by you. We do not ask for facts to be "swept out of sight", nor do we express the view "that newspapers should publish only good news and seldom bad news". The emphasis of our Memorandum is that editors and journalists should pay particular attention to their traditional responsibility to report accurately and objectively. In this we would in no way differ from you in your stated view that the only point at issue when police statistics on crime among young black people are reported is the accuracy of the evidence itself, and of course the accuracy of the report.

Plea changes

From the Chairman of the Bar
Sir, In his balanced article on page four of *The Times* of May 10 about a suggestion that some barristers had improperly persuaded their clients to plead guilty, your Legal Correspondent, Mr Peter Webster, in which the suggestion is made as a "spin-off from a larger research project" which could be taken to suggest that the report, and the "survey" on which it is based, is itself a piece of research, it was stated that "the report is to be published in the summer, in spite of opposition from the Bar Council on the ground of public interest".

The only opposition which the Bar Council has expressed to the publication of the report (and I quote from my letter to the Home Office to which the article refers) was in these terms: "that it would be dangerous and misleading if the book in its present form was to be published as a piece of research, will less of research published with the authority of the Home Office". This opposition was expressed because, in the view of the Bar Council, and in the publicly expressed opinion of the President of the Law Society, a report which depends for its substance on the unchecked complaints of convicted criminals cannot possibly be described as "research", particularly when it lacks any of the safeguards which would have been required if any weight was to be given to it (amongst other deficiencies, despite our request none of the complaints has ever been put to any of the barristers concerned nor have their

One of our recommendations is that editors should examine their editorial policy in order to ensure that the style and content of their reporting on race relations issues does not encourage or reinforce racial hatred and hostility.

A timely reminder that this happens is provided by Mr Justice Neil Lawson who is reported as saying on Monday of this week that the police faced a very dangerous situation in Southall last summer, "partly owing to the way the matter was distorted in various sections of the media". He said that publicity given to a fight had been "a fortifying character" and had borne absolutely no relationship to the facts of the case as he and the jury had heard them in evidence. (*Guardian*, May 10, 1977).

This is basically a plea for editors to avoid sensationalism, misrepresentation and inaccuracy. But it is not as obvious a plea as it sounds: during the Community Relations Commission's existence we have seen many examples of inaccurate and biased reporting, whether through carelessness or intention. These are in our view a luxury which is undesirable on any issue, but in the issues relating to race can create long lasting damage to community relations. Yours sincerely, PITT OF HAMPSHIRE, Community Relations Commission, 15/16 Bedford Street, WC2, May 10.

evidence or comments on the complaints been obtained). The "case" against these barristers, none of whom has been identified, depends on apparently confidential and uncorroborated information given to their interviewers by a number of anonymous persons, many of them recordists, who had been convicted of the offences in question on their own confession.

This is not, however, to belittle the seriousness of the allegations; as I said in my letter to the Home Office after the sentence which I have quoted above: "At the same time, some of the allegations made to and by the authors are disturbing, and should unquestionably be investigated before memories become quite stale".

Unfortunately this investigation may now be impossible, because (according to the authors, and I quote them) of "severe difficulties in tracing the defendants". It seems, therefore, that it is now late either to seek confirmation of the complaints or to put them to those against whom they were made; and, because of the same difficulties, it is apparently impossible to comply with the Bar Council's request that the defence in question should be advised of their rights to appeal against their convictions and to make formal complaint against the barrister concerned—rights which could, and should, have been exercised if, or to the extent that, the complaints were well founded. Yours faithfully, PETER WEBSTER, The Senate of the Inns of Court and the Bar, 11 South Square, Gray's Inn, WCL.

The Lib-Lab pact

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, As one of George Hutchinson's "accomplices" (May 7), may I say that, even if not in the interests of the Liberal Party, it is in the interests to be seen—the Steel-Callaghan deal is certainly in the interests of the nation?

The recent poor showing of Labour and Liberal candidates was primarily due to the mood of the electorate which resembles that of the pre-war Italian people who used to mutter "Piove, governo ladro" ("It's raining—bloody government"). Prices are going up, so obviously it must be the fault of our rulers; turn them out and all will be well.

The idea that the Government may be right in its policy of wage restraint to contain inflation, which they are pursuing in the face of the entrenched Marxist and the increasing opposition of very powerful trades unions—to say nothing of much unpopularity—does not seem to occur to a large majority. Nor does the possibility that they may soon "clean clean" on direct elections to the European Parliament.

Washington's ancestors

From Mr Peter Walne

Sir, With respect to Mr Llewellyn (*The Times*, May 5), John Washington, great-grandfather of the first President of the United States, did not emigrate to Virginia from Essex around 1656-57. He emigrated from Triang in Hertfordshire, where he lived with his mother, Amphyllia, and his two brothers and three sisters at the home of Amphyllia's stepfather, Andrew Knowling, after the ejection of his father, the Reverend Lawrence, from the comfortable rectory of Purleigh, Essex, in 1642. The miserably poor living of Little Brexet could not support so large a family and the intervening decade until the Reverend Lawrence Washington's death in January, 1653, can only have been made tolerable for the young Washingtons and their mother by the compassion of Andrew Knowling.

George Washington was ignorant of his immediate English ancestor's origins but knew of his remote northern ancestry by oral tradition within the family. Without the evidence of the Triang manorial court rolls and parish registers (in which the baptisms of three of the children are recorded including that of the younger Lawrence), the will and connected probate documents of Andrew Knowling preserved in the records of a Hertfordshire ecclesiastical court and the inventory, dated 1677, of the English emigrant to Virginia held at the time of his death by Lawrence Washington "dying in Virginia but late of Luton in the county of Bedford", now in the Public Record Office, of England and America might remain unknown. Without these solid Hertfordshire foundations, the shrines at Sagvare Manor and Washington

It is just assumed that the simple replacement of Mr Callaghan and Mr Healey by Mrs Thatcher and (?) Sir Keith Joseph will somehow in itself do the trick.

It would not do the trick. If the present situation of the British economy is to be maintained, the Tories will pick up the baton. We should either have to rally round a national government, based on an overwhelming Parliamentary majority, or have a more radical and enforcing decisions involving a further fall in the standard of living and in social services (which seems unlikely), or we should have to accept a form of non-parliamentary dictatorship.

I suspect that the electorate would not greatly care for this last solution. Rationing might, indeed, restrain inflation and a great development of the armed forces and the police might reduce unemployment, but censorship would also, as in war, have to be applied, and liberty would fly out of the window. Few seem to think that all this is a possibility. Unfortunately, it is. Yours faithfully, GLADWYN, House of Lords.

Pocketed hands

From Mr Dhiren Bhagat

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Hutchinson is at a loss to understand why an increasing number of men walk with their hands in their pockets (May 7). Perhaps T. S. Eliot's observations of the 30s depression can provide an answer to Mr Hutchinson's bewilderment of the 70s. In the first chorus of "The Rock" (1934) the voices of the workmen thus:

"No man has hired us
With pocketed hands
And lowered faces
We stand about in open places
And shiver in bleak rooms.
In this land
No man has hired us.
Our life is unworkable, our death
Unmentioned in 'The Times'.
Unwittingly though it may be, at least their lives have been mentioned now!
Yours faithfully, DEHIREN BHAGAT, 19 Mornington Walk, Ham, Richmond, May 10.

Newspapers in London

From Mr Tom Baistow

Sir, Mr Lawrence Cadbury must not be allowed to try to save his conscience publicly with such a whitewash (Letters May 10) of his "merger" of the *New Chronicle* and *Star* with Lord Rothemere's *Daily Mail* and *Evening News*—ie, the shutting down of two liberal newspapers and the sale of their titles to a Tory group.

For one thing, his boast about the "successful" shareout of compensation to his employees rings oddly in the ears of those—many of whom had been all their life with the firm—who received only a few days' pay for each year of service because he and fellow directors had failed, characteristically, to foresee that some shareholders might want their money back. The eventual miserable pay-off was, ironically, in keeping with the NC's tradition of paying its journalists less well than its Fleet Street rivals because they preferred its relatively enlightened editorial policies: they usually managed to keep its line Lefish despite Mr Cadbury's right wing views.

For another, Mr Cadbury's decision to sell baffled such shrewd newspaper proprietors as Lord (then Mr Roy) Thomson. As chairman of the action group formed by members of the journalistic staff to try to establish a new paper in the *New Chronicle* mould, I went with some colleagues to discuss a proposal with Thomson, who at that time had spare printing capacity. I shall never forget his opening remarks (which I paraphrase): "I'm amazed that you should allow Mr Cadbury has sold out. The *Chronicle* had a good sector of the market if he'd only known what to do about it. . . . There was nothing wrong with the papers that good management couldn't have put right." Roy Thomson offered his helpful advice and a generous curate deal that included editorial accommodation, communications and printing if we could raise £21.3m to fund our proposed paper's first year. We did not, of course, raise the money. Which is a pity because one of our first big feature articles would have been: "Why did Cadbury sell out?"

Yours faithfully, TOM BAISTOW, The Saville Club, 69 Brook Street, W1, May 10.

From Mr Hall Parke
Sir I refer to the letter you print from Mr L. C. Jones in your issue today (May 10).

I was the shareholder referred to therein and my interests as a shareholder were precisely similar to shareholder members of the Cadbury family. I was not consulted as to disposal of the funds and I know not why. It is my opinion that had consultation taken place instead of presenting me, a shareholder, with a proposed fait accompli, litigation would have been avoided to the benefit of both unions and shareholders.

Yours faithfully, HALL PARKE, The Hall Farm, Kineton, Warwick, May 10.

British citizenship

From Mr Stephen Hughes-Jones

Sir, If Britain is formally to have two classes of citizenship (as in practice it does now), there must be (as there is not now) a means for the second class citizen to become a first class one.

Born in Egypt, though totally British, I had something found more than a piece of blue cardboard. Reckoning that my son, born in India, would have worse trouble of this sort; and that any child of his born abroad would probably be excluded from Britain altogether: I proposed to the Home Office that they should register my son as a British citizen (which would enable him to pass on genuine, not subsidised, citizenship).

They refused, replying, correctly, that he was already British by descent. I answered that it was strange that a complete alien could acquire full citizenship, by naturalisation, but a totally British child, who like myself, had spent virtually all his nine-year life here, could not.

They were unmoved—and indeed caught me with a superb bureaucratic backhander, pointing out that son of the advantages I had hoped registration in the first place was only available to those who became British thereby, and he was British already.

This absurdity, that an alien can acquire full rights, but a British subject—citizen, however British—however long his residence here, cannot, could be largely cured tomorrow by a change in administrative practice. The recent "green paper" appears not to discuss it; but any new nationality legislation should surely cure it, and fully—above all if the Government sticks to its belief (para 16 of the green paper) that citizenship by descent should not pass beyond the first generation born abroad.

Yours truly, STEPHEN HUGHES-JONES, 49 Canonbury Park North, N1.

Sky high

From Mrs Elise Hackett

Sir, This may be of interest to some of your readers and shows the terrible growth of the present day inflation. In 1935, as Elise Bartye, I flew in the King's Cup Air Race and Lyons Corner House printed a little piece about me on the back of their menu card. The most expensive item on it was a mixed grill consisting of a cuisset, sausage, bacon and tomato and the price was 2d. I found the card by pure chance among some old press cuttings while turning out a cupboard. Yours truly, ELISE HACKETT, Blithingham Lodge, Wotton Bassett, Berkshire, May 7.

Conservative students

From Mr David Soskin

Sir, Writing as one who has attended both NUS and FCS conferences, I wish to applaud Ronald Butt's article (May 5).

If the FCS has a role, it should be to encourage support for the Conservative Party in the universities and colleges, and certainly not to believe up the NUS, which does

nothing but harm to the "student cause", nor can the nature of the NUS ever change for it will always remain the forum of the activism to which it is devoted.

The current FCS leadership is palpably more concerned with philosophical daydreaming than the practical realities of everyday life. It would appear that the outside observer, that this leadership is as

removed from the genuine feelings of Conservative youth as the NUS is removed from the beliefs of genuine socialists and this is a situation which can only damage the Conservative Party. Yours faithfully, DAVID SOKIN, Ex-President, Oxford University Conservative Association, 29 Stony Rise, Eton College Road, NW3, May 7.

Fashion in New York

by Prudence Glynn



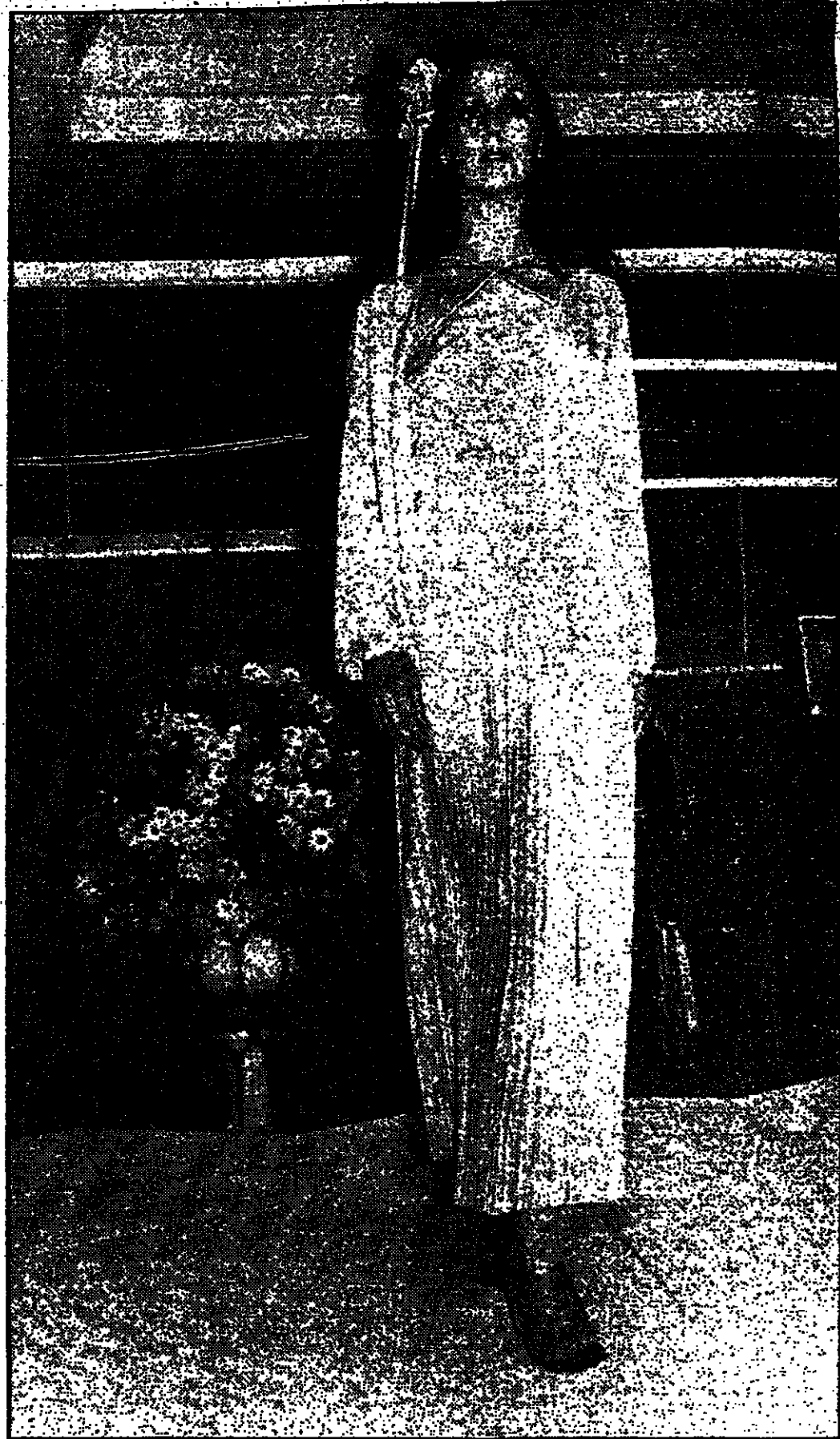
Two designers who have been showing in America and whose dresses are currently available in the Design Room at Selfridges.

Right: A jacket, skirt and top in pure silk in blue with fine blue embroidery on the top, by Salvador at £187.

Far left: A red cotton crepon dress by Janice Wainwright which costs £77.

Left: Salvador's bright yellow jersey dress which comes with trousers at £126 and can also be bought without them for £72.

Pictures: Harry Kerr



Trans-Atlantic fashion lessons for Britain

Of the many criticisms levelled at us as a nation one of the few that has seemed to me from first hand experience to have validity is that we are weak on follow-through. The way to hell is paved with good intentions (and British good manners) the way to bankruptcy is paved with British intentions which are then taken up elsewhere.

Thus having last week indulged in the fun and pleasure of visiting New York, again it behoves me to rehearse now the lessons to be learned by our fashion industry from the trip. There are a lot more outward fashion missions lodged under the Clothing Export Council and the British Overseas Trade Board's wings, and there is a whole month of res Britannica in the Au Printemps stores in France from mid-September, and you know how sharp the French can be.

When the thirteen designers under the umbrella of the London Designer Collections arrived in New York—a further five excellent names were out there too under other patronages—it was the first bloc manifestation of British quality fashion since the 'sixties, which was not quality anyway, but cheap, highstyle Carnaby Street image.

We certainly vowed America in the sixties but it was a Pyrrhic victory. It did show the new imagination and verve and freshness of British fashion design, it did in the short term gain us a lot of valuable orders and enable a few very perceptive buyers to recognize that here was a truly alternative look to those of Paris or Italy, if they could once get behind the swirling scenes and find a little professionalism. It was hard to find for there was no follow-through. The backlash of that last invasion was a reputation for bad fit, bad finish, bad deliveries (if any) and a cheapness which nobody who valued and wanted to wear or any political sense about Britain's welfare state commitments should have banked on.

As it happens, we are still cheap, in American terms, but that is because of devaluation and the quicker we can float out of that the better. The fact is that we do not need to be cheap to attract buyers because we can now offer precisely what the fashion market at the discriminating level wants. Ten years ago Geraldine Stutz was sure that the growth area on fashion was quality married to individuality; lots and lots of small, special talents doing clothes with which a certain woman could identify very personally. She built her store, Bendels, around her conviction, and discovered as a promising head British, with its art college brain and growing conviction in the young that small was right.

"The thing with the British designers," says Ms Stutz, "is that they look at the market and they say, OK, there are lots of people who are not going to like what I'm doing, but there are quite a few who will, and I would rather make what I want to make than compromise." Knowing this attitude so well I myself cannot help worrying at a certain touch of arrogance in our approach to precious markets, but, as always it seems, we have been saved by the tide of events. Fashion at this time is entirely in search of an individual conviction.

America is, of course, an ideal market for British talent if we can marry our lack of compromise—which they like—to a little more professionalism. The country is, after all enormous—however high priced or individual the clothes, stretched across all those states, many of the size of other countries, there is a magnificent potential of wearers. Peter Reger told me that a bra in satin and lace and of

inimitable shape will retail for £35 in the United States, nevertheless the Rogers were selling them as if the women's liberation holocaust had never been.

Virtually all the London Designer Collection group merchandise was subject to very high import duty because it came under the heading of "non-functional trim", as the heads were not actually crucial, though as a matter of fact in many cases they were for decency. I do long to know what constitutes "non-functional trim". It is one of those lovely official jargon phrases no-one quite understands. I mean, at what point below it do you get arrested?

Another move in the right direction for British fashion is that the dominance of the stores has been somewhat eroded at least by the appearance of small, individual shops, many of them owned by former employees of big stores. This marks a departure in American retailing and Madison Avenue is where it is all at in New York. Such shops suit the specialist, handworking and limited production desires of British companies.

The British group showed at a brand new venue called Penn Plaza, next door to Madison Square Garden and smack on 7th (fashion) Avenue. The space they took is rented for five years by a Mr Roberts and was available, since this is a new complex, at a more reasonable cost. The arrangements were neat and cool, it was possible to see the whole group comfortably, and no-one had any complaints about the organization. On receipt of the Clothing Export Council's blessing for the venture, the British Overseas Trade Board supported the London Designer Collection, a non-profit making organization therefore appropriate as a sponsor for such a lavish use of public funds (when is someone going to do a collection in red tape?).

The real instigator of this British show was Eric Hall, managing director and owner of the London Designer Collection, a non-profit making organization. He came out to the European Fashion fair in New York last year and was convinced that this was a market to be tapped. So, he set about, would be his vitality. Eric West has been to and from New York several times at his own expense to set up the latest visit and to make contacts. Only \$15,000 could be allocated for pre-publicity—trivial when you plan to show during Market Week Two, "couture week" in the New York calendar. I think the timing was right. But we have been left with the provocative suggestion from Mrs Menzies of Bergdorf's that Britain should show in Europe between Milan and Paris. Even if buyers were not committed, it would kill any idea that we follow the French, and also buyers would come back, if they needed, less tired and with budgets more open than now when they hit the London and Birmingham market last of all. Bergdorf's is certainly making fashion running just now, having revived what was popularly thought to be the corpse of French haute couture by selling Givenchy and equally stellar priced original models again. Ninety-five per cent of the numbers were reserved before the show was ever staged in New York.

Bill Gibb is thinking of a shop in New York. Peter Reger has formed a corporation over there. Eric West has taken an apartment and hopes to set up a permanent London Designer Collection office in New York. The French stage a massive, government backed presence here, so do the Italians. We have begun modestly, but with plenty of buyers and plenty of the right publicity.

Concluded



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مركز النحل

Taking stock
of the
Chiasso affair,
page 27

Saudis may demand bigger say in IMF affairs as price for vital contribution

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

There is a growing conviction in international monetary circles that a much bigger say in the International Monetary Fund will be the price that Saudi Arabia will demand for making a major contribution to the \$16,000m scheme being proposed by the Fund's managing director.

Saudi involvement is vital to the success of the proposal, aimed at giving the Fund enough money to deal with the increasing demands placed on it from countries needing to borrow to cover balance-of-payments problems.

A little-noticed remark by President Carter at the end of the Downing Street summit may indicate that the United States is prepared to consider any Saudi request.

The Saudis are thought to be saying that if the Western nations want to receive a substantial Saudi contribution there will have to be a rethink on the share-out of votes within the Fund to end the present situation where Saudi Arabia and the other oil producers have only 10 per cent of the total.

This is being increased to 10 per cent on the present round of quota revisions being ratified.

The Saudis are thought to want votes of their own—they are not at present—and possibly also a seat on the board of executive directors which runs the Fund on a day-to-day basis.

At the moment they are represented by a Syrian delegate. An indication of American openness to the Saudi demand may have been contained in President Carter's remarks in the Banquet House in London on Sunday, when he welcomed the attitudes of the Saudis "who want to participate with us in making decisions commensurate with their own economic influence".

This would seem to suggest that the United States is coming round to the view that consideration should be given to restructuring the voting system in the Fund as part of some future revision of quotas.

These are at present heavily skewed in favour of those countries which were economically powerful when the Fund was set up.

The United States has the largest quota, with about 18 per cent of the votes, followed by the United Kingdom, which has 7.49 per cent now and will have 6.99 per cent after the latest quota revision is agreed.

The Saudis are thought to feel that it is wrong that the United Kingdom, for example, should have heavy voting rights while the oil producers who

are being asked to put up funds are effectively unrepresented.

Many European countries, such as Germany, accept that the present voting structure is anachronistic. The Germans feel that they themselves are underrepresented. But any attempt to link a revision of quotas with the scheme of Dr Witteveen, the managing director, could risk putting the whole plan in jeopardy. Countries which now have big quotas would have to lose some power.

One of the attractions to a number of western countries has been the prospect of getting Saudi money and a sense of Saudi involvement without the reality of Saudi control over where the money goes.

That is why the Witteveen scheme is effectively sealed off from any voting participation in the Fund and why there have been assurances that the countries putting up cash would have no special rights in deciding who would get it.

This issue is of more than theoretical or ideological importance. The Saudis have indicated that they feel developing countries should be the recipients from any major new fund, while the West is worried about the range of countries on the fringe of the Mediterranean and some other semi-industrial nations which have made heavy borrowings.

Aid policies questioned, page 25

Labour goes ahead with draft plan for state banks

By Our Political Correspondent

Although Mr Callaghan has told the Labour Party that he thinks a commitment to nationalise the banks and leading insurance companies would be "an electoral albatross", the party's Home Policy Committee, of which Mr Benn, the Secretary of State for Energy, is chairman, is pressing on with the preparation of a draft statement. This could be included in Labour's next programme.

It is still based on the drastic plans included in the conference resolution passed by the party conference last October, in spite of the hesitations and reservations voiced by the National Union of Bank Employees and workers in insurance companies.

Mr Benn is now considering them about the detailed proposals, and hopes to win them round.

According to party officials a document entitled Policy on Banking and Finance, which was submitted some time ago to the party's finance and economic affairs committee, is "out of date and no longer under discussion".

In the document, prepared by the party's own researchers, it was emphasized that the policy makers must take full account of the views of banking and insurance workers.

When the bank nationalisation plan was under discussion in October, the National Executive of the party recommended that there should be an amalgamation of the Giro and National Savings as the nucleus of a state bank. Mr Callaghan said he was ready to consider such a scheme.

This is still under discussion, but members of the home policy committee think that much more fundamental changes are required.

Paul Routledge writes: TUC leaders yesterday approved a plan to set up a top-level agency to channel state and private funds into manufacturing industry at the rate of £1,000m a year.

The proposal, disclosed in *Business News* yesterday, is contained in the unions' submission of evidence to the Wilson Committee inquiring into the City. In a brief statement, the TUC said its influential Economic Committee had endorsed the submission, and would be sending further evidence on the supervision, regulation and ownership of financial institutions "at a later stage".

The TUC's first bulky document for Sir Harold Wilson's consideration, concentrating on the "industrial issue", funds for investment and urges the committee of inquiry to make an interim statement on the need for more capital for manufacturing.

Unions are looking for a tripartite Standing Committee on Finance For Investment, comprising Government, TUC and employers' representatives to direct cash from North Sea oil profits, the insurance companies and the pension funds, into job-creating industry.

The TUC argues that the £1,000m for the new agency should come from public and private sources, with "at least half" from the latter.

Boots' £14m Louisiana purchase will expand market in 18 states

By Nicholas Hirst

The Boots Company has reached agreement to buy its first company in the United States with a £14.5m cash offer for the Rucker Pharmaceutical Company of Louisiana.

The offer is conditional on the agreement of Rucker's stockholders—its shares are traded in the over-the-counter market—but with the Rucker family owning 39 per cent of the equity success is practically assured.

The new expansion by Boots whose chairman is Dr Gordon Hobday, follows a wave of recent acquisitions of assets in the United States by United Kingdom companies. Only two months ago Beecham, Boots rival in the unsuccessful battle for Glaxo five years ago, increased its presence in the United States by a £48m acquisition of Calgon, a consumer products group. Beecham had already made a pharmaceutical acquisition in the United States in 1971 with its \$53m acquisition of Massengill.

Compared with the Beecham

acquisitions Boots' plans are relatively modest, although it follows the pattern of the company's overseas expansion plans, balancing the recent ventures on the Continent.

Rucker, which manufactures and markets prescription products in 18 American states, is increasing its earnings this year, with profits after tax for the nine months to March up 165 per cent at \$1,251,000. In the whole of the previous year it earned \$152m on sales of \$53.3m.

Rucker will be able to sell all Boots drugs passed by the United States authorities, including the highly successful anti-rheumatic agent, Brufen, which under the Motril label accounted for the vast majority of the £4.6m sales of Boots products in the United States last year.

Brufen is marketed there under an agreement with the American group, Upjohn, and although the arrangement will continue, Rucker will naturally become a competitor.

Financial Editor, page 27



Dr Gordon Hobday: riding the expansion wave.

Credit card conflict in the petrol forecourts

Since the petrol price discounting battle intensified in March, 1976, more than 1,200 garages have ceased to offer credit card facilities to their customers.

Barclaycard said yesterday that it had withdrawn franchises from 800 outlets during that period. Access acknowledges that in the past six months it has discontinued 350 franchises, while other garage proprietors have resigned from the scheme.

These facts came to light in the wake of speculation that the Director-General of Fair Trading may soon refer credit card franchising to the Monopolies Commission for investigation. Yesterday the Office of Fair Trading would only say that the position was unchanged from that in January.

Then, Mr John Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told Parliament that the director-general was examining the possibility of referring the credit card companies to the Commission.

Credit card transactions account for only 1 to 2 per cent of all transactions, but in the petrol market they can be used for up to 50 per cent of all sales.

Since the discounting war began many petrol retailers, notably the independents, have attempted to introduce differential pricing structures with credit card customers paying slightly more than those offering cash.

By so doing they have ignored a clause in both Access and Barclaycard contracts which demands that cardholders be offered the same terms as cash customers.

The Motor Agents Association argues that this clause means that because garages are so low, retailers are having to raise prices to all customers to meet payments to the card companies, now 3 per cent of the purchase price. This means, it says, that cash customers are having to subsidise those paying by credit card.

At present, the cost to a garage owner on an 80p gallon is 2.3p, and at that price level, the MAA says, its total profit is only about 3p on a cash sale.

Since the 1972 oil crisis the pattern of the oil industry has changed, and retail margins have been greatly slimmed, especially for independent operators. Barclaycard says that most of the big oil companies and retail chains have said they and their tenants will honour the condition of sale agreements.

Both Barclaycard and Access claim that they have no difficulty in placing a discounted petrol franchise in other hands.

Barclaycard says that the petrol retailers acknowledge that if they had to introduce their own credit payment system it could cost between 8 and 12 per cent of the retail price rather than the 3 per cent levied by the card companies.

Card companies argue that the more petrol sold by the retailer, the bigger the discount command from his supplier.

Ronald Emler

Signal goes out to check MLR decline

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The Bank of England yesterday sent out a signal to check the decline in the money market rate (MLR) by forcing a number of discount houses to borrow from it at minimum lending rate for a week.

The signal is clearly designed to discourage too sharp a fall in the yields on Treasury bills and resultant pressure for the Bank to drop MLR, now standing at 84 per cent below the 8 per cent level.

It is not clear whether or not the Bank will wish to repeat last week's exercise of forcing the discount market to borrow at MLR for a week on two successive days remains to be seen. But the opportunity to do so may be there today. A £200m call on the money market, Exchequer 94 per cent 1982 stock falls due, and this could leave the discount market facing a shortage of funds.

Burmah rejects action group's call over BP

By Ray Maughan

A call from the Burmah Shareholders Action Group for complete shareholder approval before any negotiation with the Bank of England regarding the sale of the British Petroleum stake, is understood to have been rejected by the Burmah board on the grounds that its bargaining position would be impaired.

The board is, however, believed to be committed to referring any settlement terms after negotiations but before any deal is completed.

BSAC announced yesterday that it intends to put a resolution before the annual meeting in Glasgow on June 10 to the effect that "no action be taken by the board of directors or by the company to settle or compromise the proceedings commenced by the company against the Governor and company of the Bank of England arising out of the purported sale of the company's holding in BP in January 1975... without first obtaining the prior approval of the members of the company in general meeting".

The Action Group aims to ensure that Burmah shareholders have the maximum possible say.

BSAC believes that, whatever its constitution, the Burmah board has relinquished its right to deal in the BP stake as a matter "exclusively within the board's competence", and thus requires the board to expose any alternative that might be offered by way of settlement for discussion and approval.

It is thought that although the board and BSAC are in agreement on the need for full shareholder approval before any deal is finally settled, the Burmah chairman, and his colleagues are concerned that the wording of the BSAC resolution would inhibit the board's manoeuvrability in any bargaining that a satisfactory settlement with the Bank of England might entail.

Bonn delays spending on fast-breeder development

From Peter Norman
Bonn, May 11

Dr Hans Matthöfer, the West German Minister for Science and Technology, has agreed to a temporary bar on the spending of DM122m (£30m) for research and development on the fast-breeder reactor.

A ministry spokesman said today that the Government still favours the further development of the reactor type, but that Herr Matthöfer had agreed to the bar on further spending until certain questions concerning the reactor were settled. This followed an initiative by Social Democrat parliamentarians.

It is understood that spending already contracted for will not be affected. The questions to be resolved mainly involve safety risks associated with fast-breeder technology and the spread of the use of plutonium.

The Government's medium-term plan envisages spending DM227m on fast-breeder reactors.

Meanwhile in Düsseldorf the German Minister for North Rhine-Westphalia today gave the go-ahead for development of what is claimed will be the largest brown coalfield in the world.

Between now and the early years of the next century it is claimed to mine 2,400 million tonnes of brown coal in the Hambach field, covering 85 square kilometres west of Cologne.

CBI sees talks with Liberals about Bullock

Leaders of the Confederation of British Industry are to seek a meeting with the Liberals to discuss the Bullock report.

They are also asking for a meeting with the Prime Minister to press their view that the Government should produce only a Green Paper on its ideas for putting workers in boardrooms, while issuing a White Paper on participation below board level.

On Monday, after a meeting between a CBI delegation and Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, it became clear that ministers would not favour this.

The Liberals oppose the idea that the appointment of worker director should be controlled by the unions.

Ronald Emler

Rome storm over state group break-up

From John Earle
Rome, May 11

A storm has broken over the disclosure by the Italian Government that it is having to allocate considerably increased sums to carry out the breakup of EGAM, the steel state mining and minerals corporation.

Perplexity is being expressed among parliamentarians over how the Government can exceed the limits on public spending laid down in its latest budget.

It is intended to increase the grant of a \$530m stand-by credit.

When it was decided last month to liquidate EGAM and divide its companies between IRI and ENI, the Government announced it was allocating \$50,000m to the task.

Now it has told parliament's budget commission that the operation will require \$40,000m more, a total estimated at \$1,500,000m in coming years.

A government representative has indicated to members of parliament that the intention was to get round the commitment to the International Monetary Fund by making the money available now while accounting for it in future budgets.

Signor Giorgio La Malfa, the Republican Party's economic spokesman in parliament, commented in the business newspaper *L'Espresso* that it was an absurd and incredible decision for the Government to treble an allocation for expenditure without going into the numerous obscure points surrounding the matter.

He said he believed the final cost of suppressing EGAM would be about 2,000,000 lire, adding sarcastically: "I'd like to see Dr Witteveen's face when he hears to what purpose we are putting the IMF's money."

A Communist Party spokesman in the budget commission said the present minister, Signor Antonio Bisaglia, bore grave responsibility.

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California sales revive question of UK bank deal

From Frank Vogel
Washington, May 11

The Bank of California, which recently rejected a takeover bid by the Standard Chartered Banking Group, today announced that it plans to sell 33 of its 74 branches.

It said it would accept bids for these branches. This raises the possibility that Standard Chartered may still consummate some sort of deal with this Californian bank.

Bids will be accepted for the 33 branches, which account for 12 per cent of the bank's total deposits of \$2,500m and which employ 600 people, until June 15. The bank hopes to announce the results of the sale by mid-July.

These branches will be sold for cash. The bank is not prepared to sell them as single units but it will accept bids for groups of them.

The bank, which has been undergoing reorganization under its new chairman, Mr Chauncey Schmidt, the former president of the larger First National Bank of Chicago announced that it has no intention of selling additional branches.

This reflects Mr Schmidt's determination to strengthen the bank's reserves and capital base. Pressure on him to do this has mounted since the rejection of the Standard Chartered bid.

Up to 450 jobs go in printing closure

British Printing Corporation announced plans last evening to close a subsidiary, Hazells Offset Ltd, at Slough, Berkshire, with the loss of up to 450 jobs.

Labour problems at the plant, involving the cancellation of a number of contracts, were blamed by the group for the decision. A BPC statement said withdrawal of the contracts would take the present "substantial" losses to a level the group was not prepared to support.



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Pier Street, Manchester, M60 1PS. Phone 061-934 1136.

The Times index: 185.28-3.03
The FT index: 456.6-7.0

How the markets moved

Falls		Rises	
Ass Dairies	10p to 28p	Oil Exploration	12p to 14p
Beecham	8p to 42p	Phoenix Timber	11p to 10p
Costain A	9p to 20p	Prop & Reverb	8p to 24p
Dew G	7p to 18p	Solicitors Law	4p to 5p
EMI	5p to 61p		
Fisons	7p to 35p		
Glaxo	12p to 48p		
Harmony	13p to 32p		
Harrison Cross	12p to 36p		
Hawker Sid	12p to 65p		

Equities succumbed to profit taking.
City-edged securities were wanted at the long end.
Dollar premium 120.75 per cent (effective rate 45.185 per cent).
Sterling rose 5 pence to \$1.7133.
The "effective devaluation" rate was 61.8 per cent.

Gold was unchanged at \$147.875 per ounce.
SDR-E was 1.6033 on Wednesday, while SDR-E was 0.674728.
Commodities: Coffee prices again advanced. Reuters' index was at 1580.1 (previous 1581.8).
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Royal Insurance

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the 132nd Annual General Meeting of the Royal Insurance Company Limited, held on Wednesday, 11th May, in Liverpool, the Chairman Mr. Daniel Meinertzhagen made the following comments additional to his statement circulated with the Annual Report and Accounts.

As you will have seen, there was a substantial improvement in the underwriting results. Although conditions remained difficult in most parts of the world the underwriting loss in the United States was significantly reduced, Canada showed a marked improvement and Australia after the adverse results of recent years once more produced a profit. The United Kingdom incurred only a marginal underwriting loss in a year when the exceptional weather brought storm and subsidence claims totalling £123m just for private house property insurance. On behalf of stockholders I warmly congratulate everyone concerned, and particularly the management and staff, for what must, in the circumstances, be regarded as a considerable achievement. Much has yet to be done to restore underwriting profitability in some important areas but I can assure stockholders that we have within the Group the resolution and the skill necessary to achieve this objective.

The reduced underwriting loss combined with the increase in investment income yielded a net operating profit after taxation of over £50m and after the recommended final dividend some £28m is left for transfer to Retained Profits. This sounds, and indeed is, a very substantial sum but we must recognise that with the growth in premiums it was still not sufficient by itself to maintain the ratio of capital and free reserves to premium income at the previous year's level. With the help of substantial capital appreciation during the year our capital and free reserves rose to some £466m representing 42½% of premium income and we are therefore still comfortably placed to finance further growth. Nevertheless, with market appreciation of the investment portfolio perhaps a less reliable factor than it used to be, the need is evident for insurers to be able to operate in an environment where they can earn and retain a more substantial margin of profit not only to keep up with inflation but to provide for future expansion in real terms.

Turning now to the current year, the figures for the 1st Quarter have just become available and are being released to the Press during the course of this meeting.

They show that we have made an encouraging start to the year with our total profit before tax increasing from £3.8m for the corresponding period a year ago to £27.4m now.

Investment income showed strong growth from £18.8m to £25.2m, with about a third of this growth being due to the effect of the fall in the value of sterling over the period and the correspondingly increased value to us of overseas income.

On the underwriting side we made a marginal profit of £1m as compared with a very substantial loss of £15.9m a year ago. As I told you at that time, approximately half of the £15.9m was attributable to exceptional storm damage, whereas this year we estimate that weather damage was, taking one country with another, reasonably normal, so that there has been, in fact, some improvement in the underlying trend, which is pleasing.

During the quarter we suffered underwriting losses in the U.S.A. and the Netherlands but earned underwriting profits in the U.K., Canada, Australia and overall in the rest of Europe and the Other Overseas territories.

In the U.S.A. the underwriting loss was reduced from £10m to £6.3m. The reduction would have been greater but for the fall in the value of sterling. The operating ratio fell from 109.9% to 104.2%, and we are seeing increasing benefit flowing through from the better terms achieved in all classes of business in the last two years.

There has been no improvement yet in the Netherlands, where market conditions remain very difficult. We continue, however, to press forward with our plans to correct this unsatisfactory position.

Although one quarter is too short a period to take as a guide to the likely result for the year as a whole, I do want to stress that our aim remains to make profits on underwriting itself, not merely from the point of view of maintaining our financial strength but also because by the very nature of our business we need to earn sufficient in times that are relatively free from catastrophes to balance out the other times when catastrophic losses are severe.

The Report and Accounts were adopted and the payment of the final dividend for the year was approved. The election and re-election of directors and the re-appointment of the auditors was also approved.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Directors, Management, Staff and Agents proposed by Lt-Col. J. M. Harrison and seconded by Mr R. W. Johnson.

Estimated results for the three months ended 31st March, 1977

The estimated results for the three months ended 31st March, 1977, with comparative figures for the corresponding period in 1976 and for the full year 1976 are given below:—

	3 months to 31 Mar 1977	3 months to 31 Mar 1976	Year 1976
General Insurance:			
Premiums Written	315.0	239.5	1,091.8
Underwriting Result:			
U.S.A.	-6.3	-10.0	-18.1
Elsewhere	7.3	-5.9	0.3
	1.0	-15.9	-17.8
Long term insurance profits	0.4	0.4	1.7
Investment Income	25.2	18.8	92.4
Share of Associated Companies' profit	0.8	0.5	1.8
Total profit before taxation	27.4	3.8	78.1
Taxation	10.1	1.4	27.5
Minority Interests	0.1	0.0	0.4
Profit after taxation (p. per unit)	17.2 (11.4p)	2.4 (1.6p)	50.2 (33.5p)
The operating ratios for the U.S.A. on the U.K. bases are:—			
Claims as % of earned premiums	77.2	83.3	75.4
Expenses as % of written premiums	27.0	26.6	28.0
Operating ratio	104.2	109.9	103.4

EXCHANGE RATES

In the above figures foreign currency has been converted according to our normal practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the period. The principal rates were:—

U.S.A.	\$1.71	\$2.00	\$1.80
Canada	\$1.76	\$1.99	\$1.78
Australia	\$1.57	\$1.59	\$1.48

The effect of the depreciation of sterling on the comparison of the first quarter results was to improve profit before taxation by about £2.2m. Investment income benefited by some £2.4m, and the underwriting profit was adversely affected to the extent of £0.2m.

LONG TERM INSURANCE

New business written in the first three months of the year with corresponding figures was:—

	3 months to 31 Mar 1977	3 months to 31 Mar 1976	Year 1976
New life and annuity premiums:			
Periodical premiums	3.7	3.9	17.0
Single premiums	6.9	3.7	14.9
	10.6	7.6	31.9
New sums assured	198.3	208.7	862.0
New annuities per annum	7.3	7.7	31.4

Gateway ponders Green Shield switch

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Gateway, the Bristol-based grocery chain which two years ago bought the Sperry and Hutchinson pink stamp operation in the United Kingdom, is considering a major switch to Green Shield stamps.

Trading stamps are continuing to prove a useful promotional tool for Gateway, but with the Tesco retailing chain about to give up 700 exclusive area franchises for Green Shield, Gateway is considering whether to turn more to them, said Mr Donald Lamb, Gateway's chief executive, yesterday.

Fourteen of Gateway's 95 stamp-giving stores already issue Green Shield. Not all of the rest which issue pink stamps would necessarily go to Green Shield, however, because that would presumably raise the question of whether the pink stamp operation should be shut down, in turn threatening redundancies at Gateway. Although the petrol price discount war has made this sector less attractive to trading stamp operators, Gateway still has nearly 400 garages, a substantial number of them in Scotland, issuing pink stamps. Recently the chain, which is now part of Linford Holdings, has not gone out of its way to sell new pink franchises to garages.

A substantial number of the Green Shield franchisees being freed by Tesco—representing about 20 per cent of Green Shield's business—could also go to trading stamps, in the Booker McConnell Group.

Booker McConnell, 119 of whose Budget outlets in the South east already give Green Shield stamps, is particularly considering whether to add its 32 other Budget outlets to the network. But the 58 recently-acquired Murdoch Norton Rusts supermarkets, another South-east chain, are clearly another possibility for the introduction of stamps. It seems unlikely that Booker McConnell's other 74 non-food and butchery shops would be brought into the stamp operation.

International Stores, a subsidiary of B.A.T. Industries, is continuing its talks with Green Shield on taking over about 100 Tesco franchisees.

Green Shield said yesterday that if the Tesco changeover caused a run on the bank by stimulating the sale of gift redemptions as turnover declined, if only temporarily, there was ample provision by the company to cover the situation.

The redemption provision in 1975 was £21.5m, and it is a standing policy of Green Shield always to have sufficient cash in reserve to cover the gift value of all stamps issued.

Business appointments

Directors for Bank of Scotland

Sir Richard Pease and Mr Angus Pelham Burn have been made directors of Bank of Scotland.

Mr J. M. Payne has been elected deputy chairman of Bland Payne Reinsurance Brokers.

Mr A. A. B. Brown is now a director of John Waddington. Mr David Abell, managing director of Leyland Special Products, is to be chairman of Bradford International. Non-executive directors are Mr Alan Cheetham, Mr Fred Glen and Mr Peter Durrant. Mr Chieffo Benham has joined the board as marketing director.

Mr Michael Sharman has been appointed chairman of Chloride's European industrial division. Mr David Rowe-Beddoe has been elected president of Revlon Europe, Middle East and Africa. Mr Ricardo Bessa, director of Revlon Argentina, becomes executive vice-president of Revlon Latin America.

Mr A. Z. Johnson becomes managing director of K-tel International (UK).

Mr Masao Kanmori has been selected as the next president of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries to replace Mr Gakuji Moriya, who will become the next chairman of the board.

Mr P. G. H. Hedley-Dent has become a director of Bankers' Investment Trust.

Mr Rod Stone has joined the board of Nottel Communications. Mr R. H. Newham, a director of SMI Electronics, has been elected president of the Electronic Engineering Association and chairman of council. He succeeds Mr P. E. Bates.

Mr G. B. Kiddy has been made managing director of Firth Brown Castings.

Mr Arthur Sumra has joined the board of Gandy Frictions.

Mr David Sidebottom has been appointed a director of Nova (Jersey) Knot.

Mr D. M. Goode has been made managing director of Colodene and Mr A. L. Hammond sales director.

Miss Elizabeth Anderson has become a partner in Clever & Co. Mr P. C. Hegard has been made chairman of Amalgamated Industrials. Mr A. I. Smith has retired from the board. Mr Keith Cunningham has been appointed to the board as deputy chairman and Mr Paul Egan becomes a director.

Mr George Simpson has been made a director of Young Austen and Young.

Mr Colin Duff and Mr David Smith have joined the Charles Colston Group board.

Mr James Fox, deputy managing director of Bollom, has been named managing director. He succeeds Mr Philip Bollom, who has become managing director and chief executive of parent company, Johnson Group Cleaners.

The following board changes have taken place within the Eonza Group. Mr D. E. Rogers had become managing director of Eonza and chairman of all group subsidiary companies. Mr R. L. Boland has been made managing director, and Mr G. R. Dunning, deputy managing director, of J. S. Wright & Company. Mr B. R. Lewis and Mr F. Shaw have become directors of Eonza Parkmatic. Mr P. J. Haywood and Mr W. Ryan have been made directors of Crumpton Plastics. Mr K. Ackroyd has joined the board of Foiler.

Leyland dealer hits out at 'flood of approaches' from car importers

By Clifford Webb

Foreign car manufacturers are trying to take advantage of the present indecision over the future of Leyland Cars, by persuading distributors and dealers to desert the troubled state-controlled group and switch to imported car franchises.

Caffyns, Leyland's biggest distributor in Sussex and Kent, yesterday reported "an absolute flood of approaches" during the past few months. It is so alarmed by the importers' tactics that it is planning to take full-page advertisements in local newspapers to name the most persistent importers involved.

Mr Alan Caffyn, managing director (sales), said: "We shall be naming Fiat, Renault, Datsun, BMW and Toyota. These are the people who have committed their offers to paper, but we could name many more. We have about 100 retail dealerships of whom we own about half. We have just lost two dealers, one of them to Peugeot."

"There has always been this sort of approach. It is part of the normal motor trade practice. But the difference now is that there has been an absolute flood of approaches over the past three months."

Advertisements which will be appearing over the next few days contain the following statement from Caffyns: "We suspect that the British public is a little fed up with being on the receiving end of the national pastime of knocking Britain. And in his support Caffyns certainly think it is time to say, 'Hands off the currently favoured target—Leyland Cars.'"

Another reason for the increased activity by importers is the big reorganization of Leyland's 2,700-strong network which has been under way for the past two years and is now approaching its final stages. Importers are clearly hoping to pick up distributors and dealers who are unhappy with their proposed new roles.

Last night, importers denied

that they were trying to cash in on Leyland's troubles. A spokesman for Fiat UK said: "We have about 340 outlets. We plan to increase this to some 415, but the additional dealerships will have to be of the highest possible quality. That means they can only come from some other franchise, including Leyland. But to suggest that we are mounting a concentrated attack on them is just not true."

Renault said: "We have not made a specific plan to try to attract Leyland distributors and dealers. The only approaches we are making are part of our normal marketing strategy."

A Leyland Cars spokesman said: "Since December 1 we have lost 99 outlets, of which 41 were planned terminations. The surprising thing is that although there has been a lot of pressure on our network to desert so few have, in fact, left us. At the same time we have a long queue of people waiting to snap up available franchises."

Community poised to float \$500m loan

Brussels, May 11.—Arrangements for a \$500m fund-raising effort on the international capital market by the European Economic Community are likely to be finalised by the end of May or early June.

The funds are to be made available to Italy as a Community loan to replace British contribution to a medium-term EEC loan to Italy, from which Britain withdrew its \$40m share last autumn.

The EEC Commission is sounding the market for the best conditions and has not yet far charged any single bank to bank the loan to manage the Community issue.

Among the institutions in contact with the Commission are understood to be Deutsche Bank of West Germany, and Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas (Paribas), of France. Details of the Commission's talks with various banks are being kept secret.

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Turnover	15,816	22,186	38,130	45,323	53,437
Exports	1,591	2,077	3,898	8,534	12,740
Profit before taxation	895	1,224	2,090	3,112	4,016
Return on capital	10.8%	11.8%	27.5%	29.8%	40.4%
Earnings per share fully diluted (at 52% taxation)	5.7	5.8	9.4	12.5	15.4
Dividends per share (pence)	11	13	21	3.2	5.6

*12/15ths of a 15 month period

The underlying potential of the Group is greater now than it has ever been....if we achieve the plans which we have laid, major benefits will accrue to employees and shareholders alike.

David Hargreaves, Chairman

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Immunised to servicing overseas debts costing Britain £1,300m a year

May 11.—The Government's public sector now has about £22,000m (£12,900m) of overseas creditors and owes £1,300m a year on servicing these debts, at current rates of interest.

Most of them, which are described in the Treasury's new *Public Sector Borrowing Requirements*, are due to be repaid in the next 10 years.

In 1973 the annual amount due for repayment began to rise rapidly, reaching a peak in 1981. The table sets out the pattern of repayments up to 1986.

Loans from the International Monetary Fund, which total £2,000m on April 1, can be paid within three to five years on drawings on the credit lines and three to seven years on the oil facilities. It is assumed, for the debt that the repayment is made out evenly, as the table has yet to be arranged.

between the Government and the IMF.

Government debts account for over half of the total outstanding at £11,500m. Overseas loans to local authorities, nationalised industries and other public bodies such as the Water Council, account for the other £10,700m, most of which was raised under the exchange cover scheme.

This covers borrowings against alterations in the exchange rate, which have recently increased the sterling value of the loans as most were taken out before last year's plunge in the value of the pound.

Not all of the government loans arranged recently have yet been drawn. The £22,000m total excludes £1,100m of the £3,500m IMF loan arranged in December, and \$500m of the Eurodollar loan raised at the beginning of this year. These amounts are expected to be drawn later in the year.

SCHEDULED REPAYMENT OF FOREIGN CURRENCY DEBT OF THE UK PUBLIC SECTOR 1977-1986										
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
£ billion										
HMG \$2.5 billion loan	—	—	—	—	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	—	—
HMG \$1.5 billion loan*	—	—	—	—	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	—	—
IMF—oil facility	—	—	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	—	—	—
—May 1976 drawing on 1st credit tranche	—	—	—	0.2	0.4	0.2	—	—	—	—
—January 1977 drawing on \$3.9 billion standby	—	—	—	0.4	0.6	0.1	—	—	—	—
Foreign currency bonds	—	—	—	—	—	0.2	—	0.5	—	—
Long-term debt	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Borrowing by other public sector bodies	0.0	0.7	1.7	2.0	2.7	1.6	0.8	0.6	0.1	0.1
TOTALS†	0.2	0.8	2.4	3.2	4.7	3.2	2.0	2.0	0.3	0.3

Drawings up to end-March 1977 only.
† Individual items may not add up to total because of roundings.

Britain's foreign currency reserves have risen to record levels this year, partly as a result of dollar purchases by the Bank of England to hold down the pound's exchange rate. They stood at \$10,130m at the end of April.

Criticism of the Government for accepting this build-up, and enthusiasm about Britain's new-found financial strength, has tended to ignore its large overseas debts.

They were built up most obviously during last year's attempts to shore up the pound, but a steady increase in

Britain's indebtedness has been the counterpart of the huge balance-of-payments deficits which have been run up in recent years.

North Sea oil is about to transform Britain's balance of payments position. A swing into surplus is expected this year, and substantial, continuing payments surpluses are forecast until the mid-1980s.

Indeed it was on the rosy future promised by the North Sea discoveries that the Government was able to raise such large overseas loans, and it will be with the payments surpluses

ECSC loan of £53m for Italian steelmaker

Brussels, May 11.—A loan of \$80,000m lire (about £53m) to Acciaierie di Piombino, an Italian steel company, has been granted by the European Economic Community from funds of the European Coal and Steel Community, the Commission announced here today. Terms of the loan were not disclosed.

But a spokesman said they would be in accordance with the usual ECSC disbursements. The funds are to contribute to financing a major modernisation programme at Piombino, especially the streamlining of casting installations.

Belgian steel decline

Brussels, May 11.—Belgian crude steel production last month dropped 16.5 per cent on March and 23.3 per cent over the year, according to the Steel Industry Federation. Output totalled 902,000 metric tons.



Highlights from his Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Gerald M. Abraham, C.B.E., for the year ended 31st January 1977.

- ✱ Earnings up 43% at £1,710,074 - the highest ever.
- ✱ Dividend up 10% to 1.3656p per 5p share.
- ✱ Sales to overseas customers responsible for growth in turnover and profit.
- ✱ Overseas trade now 64% of turnover - up 51% at £12 million.
- ✱ New year started well - prospects are good.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Aquascutum and Associated Companies Ltd., 100 Regent Street, London W1A 2AQ.

American policies on international aid questioned by bankers

Frank Vogl, Economics Correspondent, Washington, May 11.

An increasing number of American commercial bankers now believe that official international efforts at easing the needs of countries with serious balance of payments problems are inadequate. Critical international difficulties could therefore develop very long.

They assert that governments continuing to rely too heavily on international commercial bank lending.

A first step the private bankers argue that immediate action should be taken firmly establish two special credit facilities which have long been under discussion.

They believe that the establishment of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's proposed \$25,000m "debt-net" (about \$14,500m) would serve to strengthen confidence. It should not be viewed as an alternative to new International Monetary Fund facilities, they argue.

In addition, they contend the new IMF facility, Dr. Johannes Witteveen, fund's managing director, has established with a vote of about \$16,500m, should be swiftly created and engaged.

The chairman of one of America's largest banks, said, "The commercial banks have been bailing out the international monetary system the last three years and they are not doing it much longer."

These comments, the bankers have been bluntly made recent private conversations with government leaders and officials and have, at least, some sympathy from Dr. Burns, the Federal Reserve chairman.

His comments are being made at a time when the Bank feels under attack because what they call public misunderstanding about their role when they feel risks in making foreign loans may well be increasing use of delays in strengthening the IMF's resources and use of some rash American policy decisions.

His comments come at a time there is also mounting pressure over the way in which Arabia, in particular, to invest its vast cash resources.

Last week Sheikh Ahmad al-Khalil, the Saudi foreign minister, added to the confusion when visiting Washington.

He said in several newspaper interviews that Saudi Arabia was not willing to make a large contribution to the new IMF credit facility.

However, in a television programme at the weekend, Mr. Fred Bergsten, the assistant Treasury Secretary for International Affairs, said he had been assured by the Saudi minister that Saudi Arabia would make "a valuable contribution to the IMF facility."

The bankers note that President Carter's human rights policies, while laudable in principle, have added to the difficulties of bankers in determining the security of some of their foreign loans.

They point out that there are now about 42 countries listed as human rights violators by the American Department of State. Many of these are countries which have very large loans from American banks and whose creditworthiness may be undermined if United States officials add to them were reduced because of human rights considerations.

In addition, the bankers state that the surplus oil-producing countries are becoming increasingly sophisticated in the manner in which they invest their funds. They are using an increasing number of banks, placing more funds in securities, Treasury Bills and in real estate.

Thus they are substantially slowing the rate at which they add to their deposits with those leading commercial banks which have been the largest foreign lenders in recent years.

Further, the private bankers point out that their large foreign lending in the last two years has partly reflected weak domestic commercial loan demand, but that a sharp rise in domestic lending is now firmly expected. This will force some slow-down in the levels of foreign lending.

The bankers also note that because of public pressures and increased government scrutiny of commercial bank foreign lending, the banks are reaching a point where they are backing right away from making balance-of-payments loans and concentrating on foreign industrial project loans to a slowly declining number of countries.

Unilever and European Integration

Extracts from the speech by Mr. David Orr, Chairman of Unilever Limited, at the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 11th May, 1977.

Twenty years ago, the Treaty of Rome inaugurated the European Economic Community.

Naturally, my predecessors were from the beginning supporters of the idea of a Western Europe restored through unity to vigour, prosperity and influence.

This twentieth anniversary is a good time to look back at what has been achieved, to consider the problems facing us today, to look forward at what still has to be done.

Unilever in Europe

What happens in the Community is of great importance to us in Unilever. Sixty per cent of our business is still in the Community, our turnover in 1976 was £5½ billion, and our total investment is £2 billion.

We employ nearly 177,000 people in over 200 factories and offices. This makes us one of the Community's biggest employers. We spend over £500 million a year buying from the Community's farmers and as much again buying from its other industries. We pay over £350 million in direct and indirect taxes to its Governments. This year we expect to invest £300 million in the Community on fixed assets alone.

We are important within the Community in detergents, toilet soap, margarine, oilseed extraction, ice cream and frozen food.

We also do most of our research in the Community, with three laboratories in the United Kingdom, two in the Netherlands, one in Germany and one in France. Nearly a thousand scientists are working in these laboratories, enabling us to be leaders in food technology, health margarines, animal nutrition and the techniques of safety testing.

Common Agricultural Policy

The divergence between economies also threatens the Community's Common Agricultural Policy, under attack especially because of the large surpluses it creates.

In theory, in common units of account, the prices are the same. In practice, in the marks and guilders and pounds the farmer gets and the housewife pays, they are not. Each Government fixes its own rate of exchange against the unit of account. To take the extreme case, at the prevailing rate of exchange between the deutschmark and the pound, the German farmer may get almost 40 per cent more than the British farmer for the same produce, creating all the distortions which are so damaging, for instance, to our meat businesses in the United Kingdom.

I recognise that it is a great deal easier to criticise than to think of an answer. The Common Agricultural Policy is at the heart of the Community. In the long run, the objective should be an agriculture which can adapt to consumer demand, and provide a living for farmers at prices more in line with those in the world outside.

Employee participation

Unilever is committed to participation, but recognises that it can take many forms. Trade union structures, worker attitudes, the operation in practice of Boards, all vary from country to country. Our experience in Germany and more recently in the Netherlands has been constructive; but that does not mean that the German or Dutch model of participation is necessarily right for other countries.

We believe that participation can only work if it develops organically, out of the culture, traditions,

The Annual General Meeting

The Report and Accounts for 1976 were adopted. A final dividend for the year ended 31st December, 1976 of 11.78 pence per 25p ordinary share of Unilever Limited was declared, payable as to 7.01 pence per share on 23rd May, 1977 to shareholders registered in the books of the Company on 9th April, 1977; and as to 4.77 pence per share at a time or times to be determined by the Directors to holders of ordinary capital now in issue registered at the time of payment. The foregoing figures will be subject to adjustment in the event of a change in the rate of Advance Corporation Tax.

The existing Directors were re-elected with the exception of Dr. J. G. Collingwood whose retirement had already been announced and who did not offer himself for re-election. Mr. F. W. L. Mann was elected a Director of the Company. The Auditors were re-appointed.

After the dividend resolution was passed, the Chairman said: Shareholders may well feel aggrieved that after a year of outstanding profit growth the Company is not permitted to propose a dividend payment of more than 10 per cent above last year.

Some relaxation of dividend control has been permitted to companies with substantial overseas investment. We have approached the Treasury asking whether Unilever could be allowed similar exemption. They have informed us that the policy guidelines under which some companies have been granted exemption from control are not intended to apply to companies like our own who have sizeable U.K. operations. Subsequently the Treasury has clarified the rules in a way that clearly excludes us from exemption.

We greatly regret this and I would urge the Government to reconsider the present controls on dividends. They are arbitrary in operation, unfair to shareholders and I believe damaging to the economy.

They are unfair because shareholders have suffered fairly compared with the rest of the community. In the three years to 1976 average earnings, in money terms, rose by over 70 per cent while dividend incomes increased by only 12 per cent. Here, I am not speaking just about the one and a half million investors who hold shares directly, but also about the many millions of people who are members of pension funds and hold insurance policies. Ordinary working people look to their pension funds and "with profits" insurance policies to protect their retirement against inflation.

They are damaging to the economy because they restrict and distort the flow of risk capital through the stock market into industry. Firms with surplus cash are prevented from distributing it for investment elsewhere. The market's function of guiding investment capital to its most fruitful employment is undermined.

Unilever has a positive attitude to new investment and we will be increasing our capital expenditure in the U.K. substantially in 1977. A CBI survey suggests that much of British industry is also ready to increase investment. I am sure that these investment intentions would be strengthened if the Government was to scrap dividend controls.

Mr. Colin Black, on behalf of the shareholders, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. David Orr, Chairman, Directors, Managers and Staff. In reply the Chairman said he felt sure that this would be greatly appreciated by all employees and he would ensure that it was passed on.

practices, and ways of thought of each society. All employees must take part, not only certain sections. The effectiveness of management must not be impaired. The interests of shareholders must be respected. A parent company must be able to control the composition of the boards of its subsidiaries.

In the United Kingdom, these conditions have been notably disregarded by the recommendations of the Bullock Committee; the proposals of the majority of the Committee would compulsorily hand over to trade union nominees equal power with the shareholders' representatives. That is why those recommendations have met with such unwavering hostility from British industry.

The proposals of the Commission are to some extent preferable, although they fail to provide for the parent company's control of the composition of the boards of all its subsidiaries. But they do recognise the rights of all employees and the impossibility of instituting a totally uniform system for all the countries of the Community.

The future

There are many threats to the Community's cohesion, many decisions which are mere bargains between national interests.

But if more and more policies are to be national policies rather than Community policies, the decisions of industry will again have to be made on a national basis rather than on the Community as a single unit. A long-term loss for all will be inevitable.

New initiatives are needed. Our national leaders must demonstrate that they still believe in the ideal of a progressive, united and outward looking Europe. The Community must be seen to be on the move towards one economy, in small matters as well as big.

It will not be an easy task for the Council of Ministers. No country is likely to agree to the abandonment of the rule of unanimity, but ministers might more often show grace in bowing to the views of the majority in the interests of the Community.

Direct elections

Neither Council nor Commission can be effective unless they are in tune with the opinion of the Community's 250 million people. I believe that this opinion will only be truly represented if the direct elections to the European Parliament are held as promised in 1978.

Conclusion

I have no doubt that Unilever will grow even if the Community stays as it is. But the more completely the Community becomes one, the greater its prosperity will be; and the growth of a company like ours is bound up with the prosperity of its consumers. We have practical as well as idealistic reasons for wishing to see a more closely integrated Community.

Telegram plea to ease scrap export curbs

The survival of some of the ferrous scrap companies depends on a relaxation of export restrictions, the Scrap Federation said in a telegram yesterday to Mr. Les-ockfield, Under Secretary at the Department of Industry.

An annual conference of the nation at Torquay, authorised the telegram after Mr. Brook told the conference the British Steel Corporation had emphasised that it was not prepared to abandon its present buying policy and revert to regional buying from any merchant. At the moment the BSC purchases its scrap from only a small group of larger merchants. Other companies can no longer supply direct to BSC works.

Sir Charles Villiers, BSC chairman, had met a delegation from the federation. Mr. Brook said and suggested continuing discussions between the two industries. He indicated that some modification of the present BSC buying system might emerge from such talks, according to Mr. Brook.

Mr. Eric J. Cross, managing director of a small Cardiff scrap company, was elected as new president of the federation.

Henry Brook, federation president, said that the state of scrap industry in Britain "desperately" with negligible markets both here or within community. Permission was needed to give men the chance to find a market, even for some of the higher grades of scrap, are not normally sold in quantity.

His report to the conference Mr. Brook said 1976 had a dubious distinction of being first year since 1961 in ferrous scrap imports and exports in both tonnages and value. The federation was

Aluminium stocks down

Stocks of aluminium, which have been rising steadily since last September, declined sharply to just over four million tonnes. This compares with 4.7 million tonnes a year ago.

Stocks of primary metal at end of March totalled 2.3 million tonnes against three million tonnes in March last, according to latest figures from the International Primary Metals Institute.

£25m sugar plant for Sudan

Capper-Patterson Group has secured a £25m contract for the construction of a sugar factory in the Sudan. The plant will be one of the largest single production units of its kind in the world.

The Kenana Sugar Company wants the factory to be completed by September, 1979, at Rabak, south of Khartoum, on the White Nile. The factory will be capable of crushing 17,000 tons of cane a day from the Kenana estates.



A statement on wages and conditions of African workers employed by Unilever companies in South Africa has been published. Copies can be obtained from the address alongside.

The Annual General Meeting of Unilever N.V. took place in Rotterdam on the same day. Mr. H. F. van den Hoona, Chairman of Unilever N.V., presided and delivered the same speech as Mr. Orr in London.

To: Information Division, Unilever Limited, P.O. Box 68, Unilever House, London EC4P 4BQ.

Please send me a copy of the full text of the speech.

Name _____

Address _____

Conference warned over dangers in maintaining world overcapacity

Plea for joint European ship policies

From Peter Hill
Oslo, May 11.
Unless European governments evolve a harmonised maritime policy—involving some measure of flag protection—the face of European shipbuilding will be unrecognizable within five years.

Mr Graham Day, former chief executive-designate of British Shipbuilders, the new state shipbuilding corporation, gave this stark warning here today.

At worst, European shipbuilding would gallop off in several directions at the same time. At best, a degree of harmonization might be achieved, he said.

World shipbuilding capacity must be cut back—demand for new ships over the next few years will be about one third of recent output levels—if the industry was ever to return to both stability and viability.

Sporadic government involvement in the European industry had been adequate to keep the industry in being until recently, but this was no longer good enough, he said. Mr Day, who was addressing the North Sea Shipping '77 conference made it clear that he was against governments adopting "survival of the fittest" policies. In Europe it would almost certainly result in the survival of very few companies.

The key must be the ensured employment of some base level of shipyard capacity. Hopefully, efforts would be concentrated on preserving the best units, and providing a continued level of capital expenditure, so as to guarantee a future, Mr Day said.

Fighting for the few orders that would be available over the next three to five years through subsidies and other financial incentives would be

less effective and more costly than developing a semi-protected home market, the vessels for which could be built in Europe.

Other nations, he argued, supported in whole or in part some degree of flag protection. In consultation with European shipowners it should be possible to formalize what increasingly appeared to be a current practice. This would, at least, provide a stable base for European shipbuilding.

Failure to harmonize policies would lead to the disappearance of more companies than was necessary and the adverse impact on those employed directly in the yards and in the supply industries would be much greater.

Support for rationalization of the industry was given by Mr Otto Norland, executive director of Hambros Bank, who told

the conference that maintenance of artificially high levels of yard capacities by governments would defer indefinitely the day when a genuine recovery in the building market would occur.

Mr Norland criticized Government policies which involved the financing of ships built on a speculative basis. He gave a warning that if these policies continued commercial financing institutions would have to reconsider their attitudes towards the shipping and shipbuilding industries.

"With each new ship built on uncommercial terms and for which there is no genuine demand, the return to a reasonably balanced supply and demand position is shipping is deferred a little longer and the cost to governments of continuing to support surplus shipyards is increased", he said.

In brief

OECD will examine world steel problems

The Council of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development agreed in principle yesterday to set up an informal working group to investigate problems in the world's steel industry. A proposal to set up the panel was made by the United States last week, after the completion of a study commissioned by the American Iron and Steel Institute which recommended, among other things, multilateral talks.

Conference sources said the Japanese delegation expressed reservations as to the terms of reference and scope of the new group, while the United States argued that member countries should be free to raise any questions.

The panel will not be formed until after consultations by OECD officials with member governments after completion of an OECD secretariat study due at the end of this month.

Mr Varley backs profit motive

Whitehall still had to conquer people's lack of understanding that industrial profits were needed to pay for social objectives, Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, said in London yesterday.

The Government was giving priority to industry over social objectives, the Secretary of State told a meeting of top British and American businessmen organized by Mr Leo Kramer, the American management consultant.

The panel will not be formed until after consultations by OECD officials with member governments after completion of an OECD secretariat study due at the end of this month.

£100m ammonia plant project shelved

Plans by two Scandinavian companies to build a 360,000-tonnes-a-year ammonia plant at Peterhead, in Aberdeenshire, have been shelved indefinitely. Norsk Hydro of Norway and the Swedish company Supra, operating through a joint subsidiary, Scanitro, had been planning to use gas from the Frigg field for the plant, which could cost up to £100m.

Accounting freedom

An interim directive permitting qualified accountants to practice throughout the European Community has been suggested by the EEC accountants' study group (Groupe d'Etudes). The directive excludes the carrying out of statutory audits, which is being dealt with in proposals expected to be published later this year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pay 'discrimination' against members of state industry boards

From Mr D. Dodds

Sir, In your report on the Incomes Data Services investigation into salaries in nationalized industries (May 6), you emphasized that members of public boards can rightly feel a sense of gross injustice since there has been specific Government discrimination against them. This is in contrast with other groups covered by the Top Salaries Review Body, such as the judiciary, senior ranks of the armed forces and senior civil servants, who received increases.

This organization welcomes this independent confirmation of the intolerable unfairness of the present situation and seeks

only elementary justice in asking for the removal of the specific discrimination to which you refer.

May I stress two points in particular.

1. In many instances full-time board members now receive up to £3,000 per annum less than staff responsible to them, whose negotiated salaries have not been so affected.

2. The Government have already stated that increases could be given without contravening current incomes policy.

We do not seek any privilege in treatment. We simply ask that particular discrimination against our members be removed. Because of their experi-

ence our members have been selected to manage the basic industries of the nation, employing over two million people, and it is quite certain that no other group of people would have tolerated this position for so long.

May I once again appeal through your columns for this unfair specific discrimination to be removed.

Yours faithfully,
DENIS DODDS,
Chairman,
Association of Members of State Industry Boards,
c/o Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board,
Sealand Road,
Chester CH1 4LR.

Creating the environment for new enterprises

From Mr K. Swann

Sir, The publication by Arthur Little, *New Technology-Based Firms (N.T.B.F.s)* in the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, a report prepared for the Anglo-German Foundation for the Study of Industrial Society, is timely, as it brings into focus the need to provide the environment and fiscal frameworks for the establishment of new enterprises.

It is interesting to note the comments relating to the low level of activity in both countries and the long-term implications of neglecting:

—an important channel for exploration of technological innovation

—the development of a new generation of modern industries which are needed to provide future employment and exports

—the value of N.T.B.F.s in maintaining a competitive environment in the face of the increasing power of major corporations.

The two main conclusions of the report emphasize the need for both British and West German Governments to make extensive changes in the taxation system and for both governments to channel more of their research and development spending into small technology based firms.

However, perhaps of equal importance are the comments and observations of the respondents in both countries. It is considered that both educational systems are becoming increasingly anti-business, in the United Kingdom there is an atmosphere which is "against enterprise". In both countries, ingenuity, initiative and entrepreneurial risk are undervalued. Contrast these attitudes with the approaches being currently

adopted in France. Having just returned from a study tour of French industrial organisations, universities and business schools I was extremely impressed with the efforts being made to encourage the development of new enterprises. Apart from Government support through chamber of commerce, the business schools and universities are very much involved in providing programmes and establishing new enterprises, and affording students assistance and advice on new ventures. New legislation is indeed required but attention must also be directed towards changing the attitudes towards enterprise, initiative and ingenuity.

Yours faithfully,
K. SWANN,
Head of Department of Management, Faculty of Management and Business,
Manchester Polytechnic,
Hilton House,
Hilton Street,
Manchester M1 2FE.

PO profits

From Mr John Tucker

Sir, Although, under the price legislation, the Post Office is obliged to find means of returning its excess profits to those who helped to create them, the method it has adopted will not in fact do so.

Many of us who have recently withdrawn from the service will not be recompensed whilst those who are now having phones installed will receive credit to which they are not entitled.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TUCKER,
20 Station Road,
Barnesfield,
Buckinghamshire,
May 6.

Building society interest rates

From Mr David King

Sir, Mr C. R. Tew is right, of course, when he suggests that an 11½ per cent nominal building society rate represents a noticeably higher effective (true) rate of interest. Yet monthly repayments over a 25 year term the true yearly rate is 12.09 per cent.

The building society way of such figures is entirely their own, but I feel that my criticism lies merely in not quoting the true rate. It would be unrealistic to expect societies to lend at a true 11½ per cent. Presumably, they would at once be into financial problems.

I believe that the societies are well aware that the habitually quoted type of rate is not actuarially precise—but that they are. Anyway, the point is academic, as most people are unable to borrow or less than a building society rate, however loosely it is quoted.

To my mind, the societies place themselves in a much more invidious position when they advertise to lenders "7½ per cent equals 12 per cent" where tax is paid at standard rate. This statement is true only for the first year of lending. After, say, 10 years the average yearly "grossed up" rate to a lender has fallen to 10.53 per cent because of the compounding effect. This is an area where rules really should be applied. I feel I believe that government borrowing advertisements (eg. National Savings) no longer appear in this form.

Yours,
DAVID KING,
87 Bargary Road,
London, SE6 2LP.
May 2.

NCB sees technology export boost

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Correspondent

New electronics technology applied to the coal industry could lead to a substantial "spin-off" in overseas business, Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board, said last night.

Speaking at the annual dinner of the Electronic Engineering Association, Sir Derek said: "In the coal industry our own need is to make another leap forward in our productivity performance. Having reached total mechanization, we are now seeking hard to extend remote control and automatic operations."

"The next steps in mining processes promise almost limitless opportunities for technology of many kinds. Among them electronics must be foremost."

Mr P. E. G. Bates, of Plessey, who is president of the association, said the industry's total output for 1976 was estimated at £1,400m; an increase of 28 per cent over 1975. Of this total about 42 per cent was directly exported, and the radio, radar and other electronics capital goods sector had a positive trade balance of £206m.

Mr Bates said: "We are concerned at the growing number of voices which seem to be advocating a 'free-for-all' when the present pay policy ends in July."

As for the Bullock report, Mr Bates said that the EEA fully supported the CBI approach.

Mr Ronald Newham, of EMI Electronics, succeeds Mr Bates as EEA president for 1977-78.

CBI wants swifter timetable for reform of pay bargaining system

By Malcolm Brown

The Confederation of British Industry is aiming to get agreement this year with the Government and the TUC on a broad outline for the reform of pay bargaining.

A spokesman for the confederation said yesterday that changes to the draft document outlining the CBI's ideas, which was disclosed in *The Times* on Wednesday, was a speeding up of the timetable. The draft had suggested setting a 12-month target for agreement. This was now thought to be too long.

The final version of the document—which suggests a radical new bargaining scheme

£13.5m Brussels grants for regions in UK

From David Cross

A new batch of grants totalling 32.3 million units of account (about £13.5m) for regional development projects in the United Kingdom has been approved by the EEC Commission.

Nearly 40 per cent of the grants, which come from this year's European Regional Development Fund, will go to the north of England and most of the remainder to Wales and Northern Ireland.

The projects include the building of a cigarette factory for Carreras-Rothmans at Darlington, and the expansion of a Ford carburettor plant in Belfast.

Port Talbot strikers' peace terms rejected

By Paul Routledge

The unofficial Port Talbot steel strike is to continue, and the 520 electricians, whose seven-week-old stoppage has caused the lay-off of 6,700 process workers, are not to meet again for another 10 days.

The British Steel Corporation last night rejected a compromise peace formula put forward by the strikers' leaders, which would have allowed them into talks with the management as silent observers. BSC is refusing to negotiate with the men until they go back.

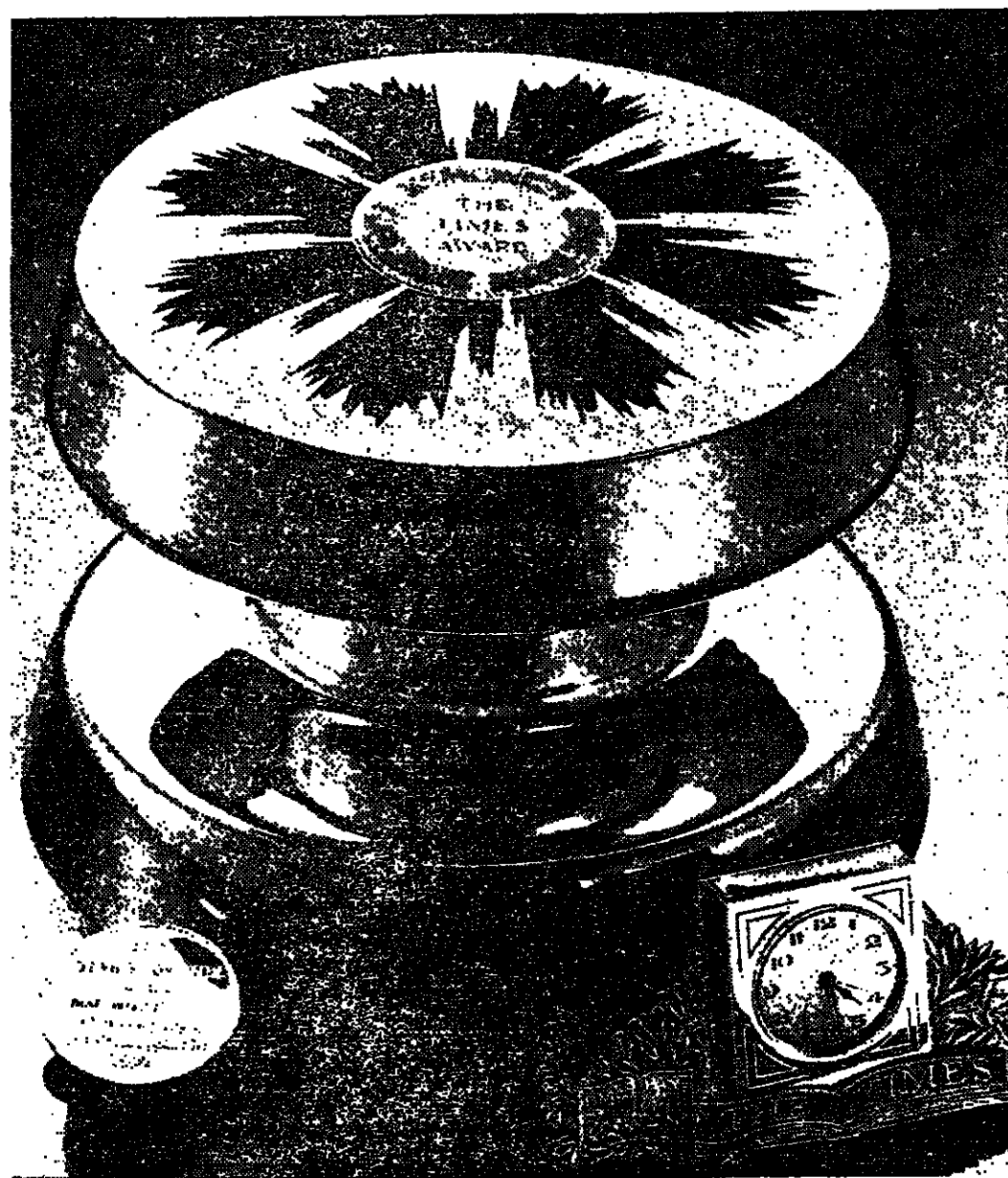
Informal suggestions that the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) should be called in to seek a

way out of the impasse seem to have come to nothing.

The men voted yesterday to continue their strike over differences with technicians, and rates of pay for manning a new sinter plant, but put forward their compromise formula.

Their proposal brought forth this rebuttal from the BSC: "The corporation is prepared to talk with full-time union officials about ways and means of resolving the dispute; prepared to negotiate on the particular claim with the full-time officials and the men if there is a return to work at the sinter plant is named; not prepared to negotiate with men on unofficial strike."

The confederation wants to see less multi-unionism and a TUC able to exert a powerful influence on individual unions.



THE TIMES AWARDS FOR THE BEST ADVERTISEMENT OF A COMPANY'S RESULTS FOR 1977.

The Awards

The awards will follow the 1976 pattern, namely

a) The Grand Prix, to be held for one year, awarded to the entrant whose advertisement is, in the opinion of the judges, the best submitted, irrespective of category. The Grand Prix consists of a silver trophy, specially designed for The Times by Gordon Hodgson.

b) First, second and third prizes for category winners. Awards will be made both to the winning advertiser and agent.

The Panel of Judges

The Awards will be made by an independent panel of judges, selected for their understanding of this specialised form of communication.

They will judge entries in accordance with the following criteria. An advertisement of a company's results, whether the Chairman's statement is or is not included in full or in abridged form, should:

- Attract the eye, by virtue of its design.
- Be easy to read, by the use of skilful typography.
- Contain such information as prospective investors or professional advisers are likely to require, including details of the business carried on by the company.
- Include, at the option of the advertiser, such illustrations, graphs, or diagrams as may be necessary to supplement (c) above.
- Leave the reader with the impression that the company concerned would be a good one to do business with, to work for, or to invest in.

Note: In the case of the categories 'Interim Results' or 'Preliminary Figures', only criteria (a) to (d) will apply.

Conditions of Entry

All entries are free, but must have appeared in the pages of The Times Business News during 1977.

The following are the categories in which awards will be made:

- Annual Results.
 - Colour or Black and White. Half page or larger, or equivalent.
 - Colour or Black and White. Less than half page or equivalent.
- Interim Results or Preliminary Figures. Colour or Black and White (All sizes).
- Judges' Special Award.

The judges will have the option of making, at their absolute discretion, a special award. Details of the criteria for this award will be announced at a later date.

Entries will be accepted throughout the twelve month period January 1st–December 31st 1977, and should take the form of art pulls mounted on board, with a clear indication of the category in which they are to be judged. Six unmounted art pulls should also be provided for the use of the Award Judges.

They should be sent to:

Michael Mander, Advertisement and Marketing Director,
The Times Awards,
The Times, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road,
London WC1X 8EZ. Tel: 01-837 1234.

Presentation of the awards will be made early in 1978.

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Telephone Rentals

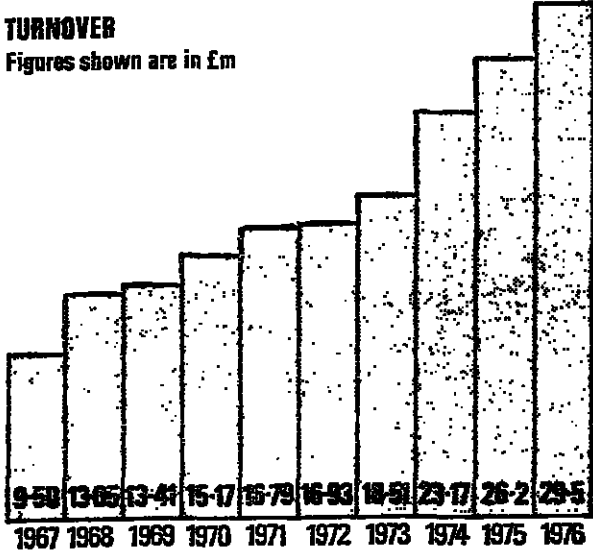
LIMITED
Incorporating
DICTOGRAPH TELEPHONES LIMITED

OPERATING TR SERVICES

Record Group Results for 1976

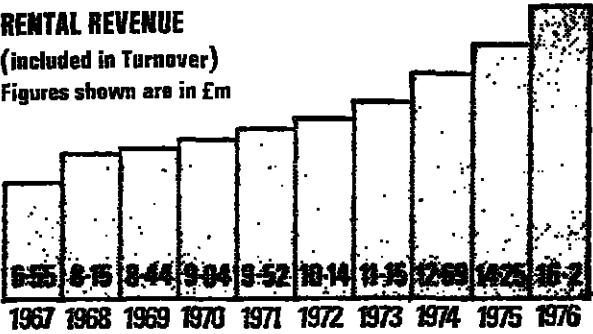
TURNOVER

Figures shown are in £m



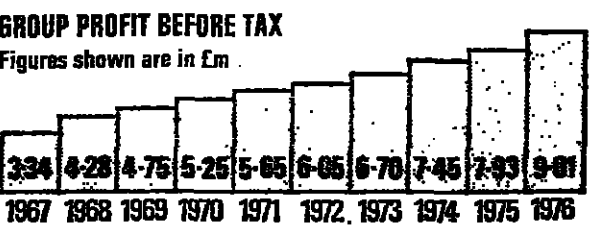
RENTAL REVENUE

(Included in Turnover)
Figures shown are in £m



GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAX

Figures shown are in £m



Mr. E. H. Cooper, the Chairman, reports:—

* Group Profits for 1976 after Depreciation and Relocation Expenses of £202,949 but before Taxation were £9,012,854 which are again a record and show an increase of 13.6% over the previous year.

* Directors recommend an increased Final Dividend of 15.4% (14%) making a total for 1976 of 20.9% (19%).

* New rentals taken showed a useful increase over 1975's record results. New sale business did not match the high figures secured in that year, mainly due to a fall-off in orders secured in the U.K. Group turnover once again showed a substantial improvement from £26,199,626 in 1975 to £29,496,798 including an increase of £1,953,880 in rents receivable.

Future Prospects

* Whilst, in present conditions, our Overseas interests are unlikely to show any marked improvement over their results for 1976, a slow but steady improvement in trading conditions in the United Kingdom is already becoming apparent. New rental business taken by the Group for the first quarter of the year is substantially ahead of that secured for the same period in 1976 and new sale business is beginning to approach the high levels attained in 1975.

* In these circumstances coupled with your Company's strong financial position and in the absence of adverse economic circumstances your Board are quietly confident that further steady progress will be made during 1977.

Meeting 8th June, 1977

Dividend payable 5th July, 1977.

TR Services include PABX and Internal Telephone Systems
Data Communications
Staff Location • Time Control
Production Control • Fire Alarms
Fire Detection • Hotel Services
Security Guard Protection

HEAD OFFICE

T.R. House, Bletchley,
Milton Keynes, MK3 5JL.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Oils prominent in late trading

Equities gave up a good part of Tuesday's gains as profits were inevitably taken.

Though the FT Index closed a full seven points down at 456.6, dealers were not discouraged. The selling was confined to the closing of speculative positions and did not represent a fundamental change of market mood. Late in the day, a good two-way trade developed as buyers came in again at the lower levels.

Office and Electronic Machines showed last year what it could do in recession and against a depreciating pound, a big point for an importer of German equipment. It hoisted sales and profits by nearly a fifth. Now the pound has steadied and new lines are being marketed. A bid could eventually appear when the chairman steps down. The shares are now 74p.

In the gilt-edged markets, nearly all the interest was at the long end and stimulated by interest rate hopes. After some concern over the money supply had made for a hesitant start, prices went ahead in a modest turnover and by the close gains stretched up to half a point.

By comparison, shorts were neglected and ended close to their overnight levels.

For a multiplicity of reasons oil shares sprang to prominence late in the day. There is now a widespread belief that the Government sale of 66m BP shares will come this week and the shares, spurred by United States demand, closed 18p up at 944p. The chairman's oversight speech was an additional incentive here, but for Shell there was an entirely different picture.

The fact that today's quarterly figures have been put forward to 9.30 am is interpreted by some to indicate a rights issue and the shares slipped 5p to 542p. A majority think this unlikely.

Oil Exploration was wanted speculatively and gained 12p to 142p after the chairman's statement at the annual meeting was interpreted to the surprise of some, to augur well for Thelma Field prospects.

On the stores pitch, Burton's rationalization plans brought a delayed response and the "A" shares dipped 8p to 70p in front of interim figures due today. With Hepworth's still finding a "big demand" for the traditional suit the shares were a steady 42p, but elsewhere on the pitch Gus "A" gave up 6p to 237p and Boots, in spite of a United States deal, 5p to 165p. A firm exception was House of Fraser which was supported at 117p, up 2p.

Over in buildings, comment on figures left Costain 9p lower at 204p but there was speculative support for Phoenix Timber which jumped 11p to 103p. The market would not be surprised to hear of takeover news in the industry.

In motors, coachbuilding Plaxtons went ahead a couple of pence to 103p before relapsing to unchanged after bullish figures, while Plessey up 5p to 110p, was also favoured.

Lighting & Leisure returned at 52p, a rise of 16p on Tuesday's suspension price after the terms from Inchcape. Copper-Neill lost 3p to 82p in spite of news of a Sudan factory contract and a rights issue and profits news lowered Derwent Stamping by 10p to 140p.

In electricals, AB Electronics continued to be speculatively supported and rose 7p to 112p, but on the other side of the coin Laurence Scott succumbed to profit-taking on the lack of further takeover news and gave up 3p to 132p. Thorne "A" was particularly weak at 282p, off 10p, but still anticipating a Drax statement. Reynolds Parsons gained another 15p for a close of 202p.

Engineers had a firmer-than-average look with the exception of Hawker Siddeley which lost 12p to 656p on recent gains. Both GKN 4p to 340p and

Blackwood Hodge 5p to 123p gained ground and Averis 6p to the good at 156p after a strong second-half report.

In spite of a denial of takeover talks and the sale of assets, Hunting Gibson rose 3p up at 305p. There was market talk here that an impending deal is more likely to involve the group's expanding oil interests than its ship.

In insurance, Royal gained 6p to 353p after quarterly figures but the share offering mentioned in a depressed Derwent which lost 3p to 123p.

Nervousness about Courtland's forthcoming final figures brought persistent selling in the shares have not joined in the recent strong market rise. Profits are expected to be little different from last year's £5.7m. What dealers will be looking for are signs that the upturn in textiles is starting to work through. The shares were a subdued 123p.

Among the leaders Unilever reacted a further 26p to 47p after its profits and Glaxo 12p to 498p was also well done. Samuel up 3p to 83p supported in properties.

Equity turnover on April 10 was £136.03m (25,216 bargains).

Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were Shell, Unilever, ICI, Rank, BAT, DiD, Royal Insurance, Bowater, Samuel Properties, Associated Dairies, BP, Oil Exploration, De Beers, Reynolds, Parsons, Costain, Andre Sibthorp, Derwent Stamping, Laurence Scott, Thomson Organisation, AB Electronics and Burton "A".

Latest dividends

Company	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year's total
ABN Ltd (25p) Fin	2.23	2.23	—	3.39	3.57
Booth Int (25p) Fin	0.79	0.79	1/7	1.39	1.26
British Syphon (25p) Fin	2.25	1.87	4/7	3.0	2.4
City of Oxford (25p) Fin	5.2	5.2	13/7	9.02	8.2
Derwent Stamping (50p)	2.1	1.5	4/7	3.75	3.0
External Inv (E) Fin	Nil	Nil	—	1.12	Nil
F. P. A. Constn (25p) Fin	0.62	0.62	—	6.4	4.0
Charles Hill (E) Fin	4.5	2.0	—	11.5	10.0
Jersey Gen (E) Fin	7	6	11/7	6.49	6.49
Plaxton's (25p) Int	5.0	2.57	—	3.75	3.0
Trans & Gen (E) Fin	2.1	1.5	4/7	3.75	3.0

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on profits per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.55.

British Land now possible Bridgewater suitor

By John Brennan

Mr. John Ritblat's British Land has stepped in as the next possible suitor for Bridgewater Estates. Bridgewater, the Lancashire-based agricultural land and investment holding group, has just successfully defeated a 200p-a-share cash offer from Rothschild Investment Trust.

Rothschild has now sold on its 15.5 per cent stake in Bridgewater to BL at 212p a share, clearing a £250,000 profit on the deal.

The property group approached RIT and arranged to buy the shares for cash raised by placing 2.07m new shares in the market. The placing, which was announced after the market closed, left BL's shares just 1p lower at 45p last night. The RIT purchase brought in 414,400 Bridgewater shares for £879,000. But, interestingly, in BL's announcement of the acquisition it reports that it has taken on 419,000 Bridgewater shares, only a further 4,600, but perhaps an indication of the group's forward thinking.

Mr. J. L. Hacker, a Bridgewater director, says that there have been no talks with BL at any time and that he first knew of the sale shortly before its official announcement. In its bid defence against RIT Bridgewater argued that the group had a net asset value "of over 300p a share (£8.1m) and that expected growth in 1976's £548,000 pre-tax profits justified a 47 per cent increase in dividends to 20p gross per share.

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Gold Fields to take 51pc stake in R150m project

By Desmond Quigley

Gold Fields of South Africa, in which London-based Consolidated Gold Fields has a 49 per cent stake, is to take a controlling 51 per cent interest in Phelps Dodge's major copper development project in the Northern Cape, South Africa.

A detailed feasibility study has indicated that the mine will cost R150m to bring to production and will take between two-and-a-half and three years. At today's metal prices total net revenues would be about R55m to R60m a year.

Initially Phelps Dodge's interest in its subsidiary Black Mountain Mineral Development will be reduced to 49 per cent. However, the holding may be diluted further if Phelps Dodge

does not participate in any further financing.

The agreement in principle, on GFSA's participation in the project was reached only after "extensive discussions with several South African mining companies", a Phelps Dodge statement notes.

The statement comments that "several hurdles" have to be overcome before the arrangement can be completed. Details regarding transportation facilities and water supply remain to be worked out as well as the preparation of definitive agreements and satisfactory arrangements for financing, although the statement comments that "substantial progress has already been made towards the resolution of these issues."

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FINANCIAL NEWS

EC's tax harmonization plans could ease Unilever's burden

Our Financial Staff
The EC's tax harmonization plans could ease Unilever's burden. The company's tax burden in the EC countries could be reduced to a level comparable to that in the UK, the chairman said. The chairman, David Orr, said that the company's tax burden in the EC countries could be reduced to a level comparable to that in the UK, the chairman said. The chairman, David Orr, said that the company's tax burden in the EC countries could be reduced to a level comparable to that in the UK, the chairman said.

Shareholders may well feel aggrieved that after a year of outstanding profit growth the company is not permitted to propose a dividend payment of more than 10 per cent above last year's, the chairman said. Some relaxation of dividend control has been allowed for companies with substantial overseas investment, the chairman said, and Unilever has approached the Treasury asking whether it could be allowed exemption.



Mr. David Orr, chairman of Unilever.

has Hill
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ke off

Our Financial Staff
The full year's results from the Hill of Bristol show little improvement took place in the second half. Pre-profits for 1976 were more than halved to £170,000, compared with £382,000, on a record turnover of £13.5m, against £9m. In the first half, pre-profits were also more than halved, falling from £147,000 to £70,000. The board reported that the results were lower because of a variety of reasons, but the last half's figures were better. The last half's profit was £105,000, a fall in trading profit for the first time since 1975, when it was £142,000, against £100,000. But with a credit for rest of £20,000, compared with a charge of £58,000, and not doubled associates' share of £36,000, against £10,000, the decline at the pre-level is softened.

Booth leaps over £1m but stays cautious

By Ashley Druker
Turnover picking up at the onset of 1976 in both its raw stock business and English tanneries, Booth (International Holdings) finished the year to December 31 with the opening momentum more than maintained. Profits at midyear at £551,000, pre-tax already exceeded its previous best-ever for a full 12 months, and for the whole of 1976 profits more than doubled to £1.16m. This is the first time this group of hide and skin merchants and tanners has topped the £1m mark. It was achieved as turnover increased from £18.2m to £26.1m. Earnings a share, excluding extraordinary items, moved from 7.05p to 17.97p. The items, credit of £188,000 against a

deduction of £2,000, arose mainly from the disposal of part of its various interests in Africa. It was a final of 2.59p, plus an additional amount if the tax rate is reduced to 33.67p, which makes a total of 6.09p, compared with 5.5p. The shares rose 2p to 54p. The group's business is largely in two categories, including the tanning and finishing of hides and skins for leathers for the United Kingdom and overseas, besides the merchandising of raw and partly processed hides and skins at home and abroad. Some 60 per cent of its turnover comes from overseas. As in the past, the board is cautious on the outlook for 1977 in spite of reporting a good opening to the present term.

Jolly BTR looks abroad

Andre Schembler is keeping his profits forecast firm to insist for the time being so the running yesterday was made by predator BTR. It already has just over 26 per cent of Schembler's equity and recently raised its cash offer from 50p to 55p. The share offer is of one for four.

For its part BTR used the annual meeting to indicate how well the group is doing. It is concluded by the Take-Over Code from forecasting profits itself, but Sir David Nicolson, chairman and former chief of British Airways, was cheerful. Apart from reporting a strong upswing in sales, the chairman said that the group was seeking possible takeovers in the United States. He reminded his audience that BTR had already bought eight companies since he became chairman eight years ago.

Deritend 'rights' after late rally falls short

By Tony May

The coupling of a rights issue with a fall in profits by Deritend Stamping displeased the market, which promptly knocked 10p off the group's shares to leave them at 140p. This is still a discount of 26p on the rights price of 114p.

The issue is a two-for-five and is designed to raise about £1m for the purchase of more manufacturing equipment, as well as the reduction of working capital. It is underwritten, and allotment letters will be posted to shareholders on May 27. Dealings are expected to start on May 30.

Despite a rally in the second half, pre-tax profits of this forgings, castings, electrical installation and repairs group are 9 per cent down at £1.2m for the year to end-February. Sales were up from £18.5m to £23.2m, pointing to a drop in margins from 7.07 per cent to 5.24 per cent. Earnings a share are 22p against 25.5p, while the dividend is raised from 12.62p to 13.9p gross.

This is a maximum payment and gives a yield of 9.8 per cent. The board forecasts that the dividend for the current year will be "at least" maintained on the increased capital.

At half-way, the recession caught up with some of the group's products, and new ones were not yet profitable. Profits fell 37 per cent to £467,000. However, a better second half was looked for, and indeed profits rose 27 per cent to £744,000 during that half, on sales up 43 per cent at £33.7m. Even so margins dipped from 6.25 per cent to 5.56 per cent, although this was an improvement on the 4.8 per cent of the first half.

Mr. Claud Perry, chairman, says that the forging and electrical divisions were well to the fore, and hopes that this upturn in demand will continue. Most of the group's companies have increased order books.

But the results for the manufacturing division were "disappointing". Some subsidiaries are still not profitable after the depression, while some of the new companies are not yet in a position to contribute to group results.

Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)



South Africa must prove it has the ability and will to eliminate the grievances and resentments behind black unrest

Mr. Harry Oppenheimer

Points from the statement by the Chairman, Mr. H. F. Oppenheimer

The growth of the economy at a rate sufficient to eliminate unemployment and provide rising standards of living for our rapidly growing population will be difficult or even impossible to achieve unless we can so order our affairs that investors abroad recover confidence in our social and political stability and are willing to participate on a substantial scale in our economic development.

External confidence

The disturbances which erupted last June in Soweto and the continuance of social unrest thereafter, have had an effect at least as detrimental to external confidence in our future as the tragedy of Sharpeville 17 years ago; and the maintenance of external confidence is even more important to our welfare now than it was then.

There has until recently been an inclination to suppose that a rapid implementation of the policy of separate development and the granting of sovereign independence in various tribal areas made it less urgent, perhaps indeed unnecessary, to tackle energetically the problems and grievances of black people in the urban areas. If the riots which started in Soweto have served to dispel that notion they will not have been in vain.

Quality of life

There is a vital need for planning, organisation, finance and hard work for the purpose of improving the whole quality of life in the black urban areas. The primary responsibility lies with the government, but there is also a useful role for private South African citizens of goodwill, and particularly for the members of the business community, who may be in a position to help turn our black townships into places in which men may be able to live in comfort and with dignity.

Urban Foundation

We have accordingly joined with other leading South African businesses in forming an organisation to be known as the Urban Foundation, controlled by a board on which all our racial communities are represented, with the object of co-operating with all others concerned in the attainment of these objectives. The Foundation is raising initially a fund of R25 million, to which the Anglo American and De Beers groups have agreed to contribute R2 million each over a period of five years.

Need for political action

Since the basic reasons for the concern felt by foreign investors about South Africa are not financial or economic but political, they can only be removed by action in the political field. The fundamental question is whether we in South Africa are going to be able to give proof of the ability and the will to eliminate the grievances and resentments which lie behind the rioting and unrest in the black areas of our major cities.

Consolidated profit

The Corporation's consolidated profit for 1976 at R86.28 million, 65.3 cents an ordinary share, was 1.8 per cent higher than in 1975. Bearing in mind the generally depressed conditions during the year and in particular the substantially lower gold price, these results are satisfactory and illustrate the advantages of the Corporation's diversified investments and broadly-based sources of earnings. The ordinary dividend was unchanged at 33 cents a share and was covered almost twice by earnings. If the Corporation's share of the undistributed profits from its investments were to be taken into account, total earnings would be about 132 cents a share and the dividend would be covered four times.

For a copy of the Chairman's full statement, please send the coupon to the address below.

To: Anglo American Corporation of South Africa Limited, Room 45, 40 Holborn Viaduct, LONDON EC1P 1AJ

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____

Bowring

"Success built on hard work, initiative and loyalty"

At the A.G.M. held in London on 11th May the Chairman, Mr. Edgar Bowring, M.C. said

"We are very pleased and honoured that the contribution of the insurance industry to this country's 'invisible' exports, and the important part played in that by Bowring's Insurance broking activities, has been recognised by a Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

London's position as the centre of insurance has been built up over some 300 years by winning the confidence of world insurers and reinsurers in the expertise, strength, integrity, ingenuity and independence of the London Market. It is vitally important that nothing should be done in the pursuit of political dogma or political expediency to undermine that confidence.

The success of all sectors of the Bowring Group during 1976 has been built on hard work, initiative and loyalty. These qualities have been severely tested by continual inflation; pay restraint and penal taxation.

1977 has started well."

	1975	1976	Increase
TURNOVER	£883m	£945m	+38%
PROFIT before tax and extraordinary items	£15.4m	£25.3m	+68%
EARNINGS PER SHARE before extraordinary items	6.5p	11.7p	+80%
DIVIDEND	3.538p	4.059p	+14%
RETAINED PROFIT after extraordinary items	£4.3m	£13.4m	+211%

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary,

C. T. Bowring & Co. Ltd.

The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE
Tel: 01-283 3100 Telex: 888321

The Strength of Ultramar

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. Campbell Nelson

The year in brief

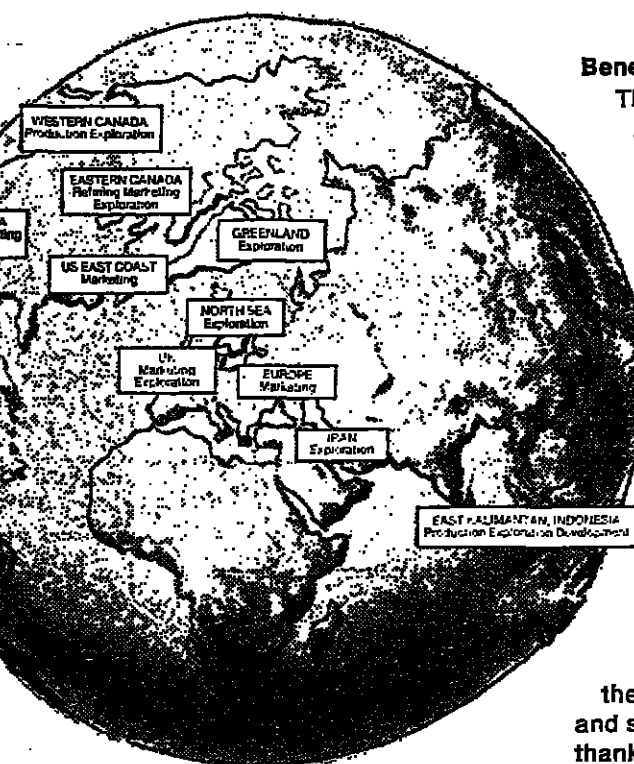
The financial results for 1976 were, on the whole, satisfactory. Group profit before taxation was £16.5 million and net earnings £11.3 million. These results were, however, markedly below the 1975 levels mainly because the adverse market conditions I referred to in my Statement last year persisted, particularly in our Quebec, Ontario and UK marketing operations.

In 1976 we had a Rights Issue, and two major loan-financings. This injection of new funds enabled us to repay some short term loans, maintain our heavy capital expenditure programme and increase our working capital. As a result the Group Balance Sheet shows a much stronger position.

Where our strength lies

The strength of Ultramar is that it is a multinational integrated oil operation. It operates or buys or sells or has trading interests in twenty countries, and has oil and gas reserves in Indonesia, Western Canada and in the U.S.A., which we report for the first time in the Annual Report.

Even when the nationalisation of Venezuelan oil occurred at the end of 1975 Ultramar was able to absorb the loss of its oil reserves and royalties in that country and yet come up with its second best ever earnings the following year.



Investment and return

Our two greatest investments in recent years have been £84 million in Quebec and £56 million in Indonesia.

As regards Quebec we have not so far seen an acceptable return on our investment. I am confident we will: the outlook for 1977 is better than the results for 1976.

Our Indonesian oil production in 1976 gave us an appreciable addition to Group profits, but it is the gas and condensate production which will make a really significant difference to our operational results. Everything points to the liquefied natural gas operation starting up in a very few months time.

Benefits to shareholders

These two large investments could not have been possible without the forbearance, year after year, of shareholders over payment of cash dividends. I ask you to be patient for a little longer and let us show you the full results of your forbearance.

While we are projecting sharply reduced capital expenditures in 1977, our objective remains controlled, profitable growth. At the same time we are looking to increased benefits from recent capital investment out of which to begin the payment of cash dividends.

Thanks to staff

1976 was a testing year for the Staff of the Group. They stood all the strains and stresses, and I admire them greatly and thank them all on your behalf.

Outlook

There is great confidence in the Group that we shall do well in 1977. How much better is difficult to predict partly because of the uncertainty over currency exchange rates.

Operationally there has been a turn around in the difficult areas as well as a continuation of good performance in the areas in which we did well in 1976. In addition we expect to have the appreciable new source of profits from Indonesia gas and condensate in the second half of 1977.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London EC2 on Wednesday 25th May at 11.30 a.m.

To obtain a copy of the 1976 Annual Report please complete and return the coupon below.

Summarised financial results

	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Sales	571,875	275,344	251,454	171,728	123,041
Profit before taxation	16,477	22,574	14,449	9,885	6,391
Taxation	5,220	6,154	3,664	985	319
Net earnings	11,257	16,420	10,785	8,700	6,072
Capital expenditures	32,655	34,289	18,493	17,183	21,194
Earnings per ordinary share:					
Basic	29.0p	45.2p	29.7p	24.0p	17.5p
Fully diluted	27.0p			Not applicable	
Ordinary share distribution	1 for 15	1 for 15	1 for 15	1 for 20	1 for 25

Ultramar Company Limited

To: The Secretaries
Ultramar Company Limited,
2 Broad Street Place, London EC2M 7EP.

Name _____
Address _____



The name that's recognised for insurance around the world.

In 1976 that recognition earned us record profit everywhere.

United Kingdom "...a most successful year."

North America "...marked increase in business."

Africa "...major progress."

Australasia "...significant expansion."

Far East "...rapid growth."

Middle East "...a major increase."

Europe "...expansion continued."

South America "...exceptional progress."

"The pre-tax profit of £12,628,000 represents an increase of 84 per cent. This excellent result was largely due to the substantial increase in brokerage business, particularly from North America and to the strenuous efforts of the Management and staff of all companies. I thank them for their outstanding performance."

The Company has declared a 1 for 4 Bonus Issue.

1977 PROSPECTS

"The profits of 1976 and, to a lesser extent 1975, were enhanced by exchange profits and high interest rates, both of which factors are likely to have far less influence in the future. However, in those years and for many years before then, we achieved considerable growth in profits by increasing brokerage income and controlling the expense ratio and I expect that pattern to continue."

John Wallrock, Chairman.

	1976 £,000	1975 £,000
Profit before taxation	12,628	6,855
Profit after taxation and minorities	5,928	2,910
Profit attributable to shareholders	6,125	3,018
Earnings per share	15.07p	7.89p

The Report and Accounts, containing the Chairman's Review, are available from:

The Secretary, Minet Holdings Ltd, Minet House, 66 Prescott Street, London E1 8BU

FINANCIAL NEWS

Bubbling Brit Syphon set to expand in non-drink activities

By Ray Maughan

British Syphon Industries bubbled back to record profits in 1976 and prepares for further expansion this year.

After the doldrums of 1975, when demand for its drink dispenser and beer cooling equipment was flattened, pre-tax profits soared to a peak of £1,000,000 against £71,000. The previous peak was £807,000 for 1973.

The dispensing equipment division took pride of place in last year's success, its contribution 63.8 per cent of the £1.26m trading profit total and looks for further growth from its new cellar cooling products, a trend which is accelerating in the wake of the major brewers' substantial capital spending plans.

But the Sheffield-based board, headed by stockbroker Mr J. M. Anderson, is also keen to expand the non-drink activities. Particular investment targets include the dairy and poultry processing operations which form part of the broad-based engineering division. Both activities are growing rapidly from their current small bases, poultry is aimed to go further into the

giant United States market with the introduction of a new range of folding knives and packaging sales are to be extended beyond the limited radius of Sheffield customers.

New factories are to be provided this year for each operation at a net aggregate cost of £250,000 which brings total capital expenditure this year up from £318,000 to £568,000.

Cash flow is improving and the industrial merchandising division, which provided 13.4 per cent of 1976 trading profits, is a sound generator of cash. Cash flow ran at £807,000 last year and any strain on working capital has been eased by a tighter control of stocks. A new £250,000 loan is about to be signed with Industrial & Commercial Finance Corporation, which has already lent almost £1m, at 14 1/2 per cent. Overall debt was cut by £250,000 but interest paid dropped by only £11,000 to £307,000 as rates peaked towards the close of the year.

A final dividend of 1.222p per share plus the total of 2.145p gross per share when the yield is 5.1 per cent at 42p, unchanged yesterday.

Anglo Am not looking for sharp gold rise

Gold is likely to stay above \$140 an ounce, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, chairman of Anglo American Corporation of South Africa, forecasts in his annual statement.

He comments that the group is not looking for a recovery in the price of gold, which in addition to its benefits brought considerable problems in its wake.

The rate of escalation in working costs on the mines has been declining over the last three years and the group is making every effort to maintain the trend. With gold holding above \$140 an ounce, the mines would receive a higher average price than last year's \$121 an ounce, which "should be sufficient at least to absorb the anticipated increase in costs", he adds.

price of the new stocks at 13.08 per cent with the associated tax credit at the current rate, or 12.68 per cent with the tax credit at the rate proposed by the Chancellor. This is still comfortably ahead of the average on the nearest equivalent gilt.

Kaduna rejection

The board of Kaduna Syndicate has written to shareholders urging them to reject the offer from Selukwe Gold Mining & Finance. Kaduna's chairman, Mr W. T. Meredith Brown, states that it is a "cash" company with a valuable Nigerian asset. "You are being asked to exchange these assets for paper of questionable value in a company with unproven management", he argues. Overall the Selukwe offer was "totally unacceptable".

Tricoville

A 19 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £245,000 for the half-year to January 1977 comes from Tricoville. Turnover rose from £3.19m to £4.28m. The full year is expected to show a further rise in earnings.

Water issues

Terms for the new issues from Wrexham and East Denbighshire Water are announced. The coupon has been set at 8 1/2 per cent (net) on the redeemable preference stock, dated 1982, of which the former is offering £1.25m and the latter £1m. At the minimum offer

Farnell Elect

Although the general economic outlook is uncertain, Mr E. Long, chairman of Farnell Electronics, is confident that the group can maintain its record of continuing growth, both in turnover and profitability. The annual report shows that exports in the year to January 31 more than doubled to £1.24m, against £549,000. At the year-end, the ordinary holdings of Mr A. C. Farnell, life president, had been reduced to 30,000 shares, against 222,000 company and one year earlier. Mr Farnell's holding was 107,000 shares, compared with 110,000. Mr R. Farnell resigned in April.

One-for-2 rights and big payout at H. Vincent

Confectionery and toffee maker, Harry Vincent, proposes a one-for-two rights issue at 40p. This is a big discount on the market price of the shares, which rose to 71p on the news. The group, which has a growing interest in wholesaling, intends to pay a dividend of 7p gross for the current year, compared with 3.04p for the year to June 26. The group is a "close" company and as the last count, one director, Mr Edward Nassar, had a controlling interest.

Briefly

Luxembourg. Issue managed and underwritten by Jardine Fleming International Co-managers and underwriters: Morgan Stanley International, Credit Suisse White Weld, Salomon Brothers International, Wardley (Vila).

HORNE BROTHERS (ordinary shares) privately held, reported turnover of £1.8m for the year to 23 up by 14.85 per cent to £2.05m and pre-tax profits more than doubled to £545,000 (£319,000 last time).

BEST & MAY. Best & May is to buy Kent Electrical Wholesale for 250,000 shares. Best is also to buy, from the major shareholder of KEW, freehold premises for £40,000.

JARDINE, MATHESON plans to raise around \$43m through an international issue of eight-year bonds. The bonds will be floated by Jardine Matheson (Bermuda) and subscribed in American dollars. Payments of interest and repayments of principal will be in Hongkong dollars.

TELEPHONE RENTALS New rental business for first quarter much ahead of same period last year. New sale business nearing high levels of 1975, says chairman.

HERMAN SMITH Sales for 28 weeks to Jan 15 fell from £2.97m to £2.56m. Pre-tax loss of £36,000, against profit of £106,000. No interim payment, against 0.35p improvement expected in second half.

TERN CONSULATE Subject to passing of resolution in general meeting, I.C.F.C. is to subscribe for 100,000 12 per cent non-redeemable £1 preference shares.

SPINK & SON Pre-tax profit for 1976 up from £339,000 to £505,000. Total gross payment up from 7.57p to 8.34p. Current year's profit expected to show further improvement.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION Treasury has confirmed that since company is trading and operating exclusively in U.S., it will not be subject to dividend controls.

THORN ELECTRICAL Thorn Electrical Industries has bought Harrow & George Securities for £5.3m cash. Harrow will now represent 50 per cent of Thorn's pension fund properties.

W.M. MORRISON Chairman of Wm Morrison Supermarkets says trading in first three months of current year shows increase in sales of almost 45 per cent.

Strong late growth at Allied Irish Bank

By Adrienne Gleason

Profits growth at Allied Irish Banks accelerated in the second half of the year to end-March. This was thanks in part to elimination of the additional provisions against bad debts.

Pre-tax profits for the year rose from £16.4m to £22.97m, with £5m of the increase attributable to the second half of the year. The figures are struck after making special provisions, which in the year just ended amounted to £15m.



Mr Edmund O'Driscoll, chairman of Allied Irish Banks.

all of which was charged against first-half profits. In the comparable period, special provisions amounted to £4m, of which £3m was charged against second half profits.

At the interim stage the group's chairman, Mr Edmund O'Driscoll, forecast dividends at least similar to those paid in 1976/77, but in the event Allied Irish is bumping up its final payment from 2.76p a share net to 4.44p a share, to bring the total distribution for the year to 6p net a share.

The group's balance sheet shows that the bad debt provisions apart, the other big factor in the profits advance was an improvement in the volume of business. Advances to cus-

Recovery at FPA as margins tighten

By Our Financial Staff

Cut-backs in the public sector and the lack of confidence for investment in the private, have meant "excessive competition" for the limited work available in the construction industry, and pressure on current margins at FPA Construction Group.

However, turnover rose from £23.1m to £23.6m in 1976, while pre-tax profits continued their recovery to end 1976 nearly 400 per cent up at £415,000, giving margins of 1.75 per cent, against 0.38 per cent. Earnings a share so down from 2.36p to 2.25p.

The group resumed dividend payments at half time, after a year's lapse. A final of 0.96p gives a total of 1.73p for the year.

The group had planned to reduce its borrowings by property sales in the second half, but the sudden jump in

interest rates put paid to the scheme for a while. Now, rates are down, sales are being ahead.

Mr Bryan Ward, the chairman, says that the expected reduction in the level of borrowings, plus much lower interest costs, will have a "significant effect" on results for the current year. Also, lower interest rates seem to be stimulating both the private housing market and property development, while the results of which investment sales, based also show signs of improving.

Turnover for 1977 has been substantially secured. Action was taken during the year to restrict the movement of the wall panel manufacturing and marine subsidiaries, and losses have now been stopped.

Bayer hopes pinned on much brighter second-half

Leverkusen, May 11.—Bayer AG, one of Germany's three largest chemical groups, expects business to show a seasonal weakening this summer, but hopes for a better autumn and winter than last year.

Professor Herbert Gruenewald, chairman, said that Bayer was not disappointed with the first quarter turnover figures which showed rises of 6.9 per cent for the parent company and 1.3 per cent for the group.

Turnover amounted to DM2,500m (about £613m). This was against DM2,400m. Of this figure DM1,000m was account-able in Germany and DM1,400m abroad. The export share of the total was 56.3 per cent.

Bayer gave no profit figure, but said the result was not quite up to last year's first quarter level.

Borel loss continues

Jacques Borel, the French hotel and restaurant chain, from which Mr Jacques Borel recently resigned as chairman

International

and a member of the board reports a first quarter loss of 34.8m francs (about £43m). This was against a 12.3m loss in the similar period. First quarter sales were 143.3m francs (£17.9m). The results reflected the seasonal nature of the hotel sector and opening in 1976 of hotels at Marseilles Airport, Marseilles Vieux Port, Metz and Orleans.

Pirelli rights stake

An underwriting consortium in Milan took up 20 million shares, for 20,000 lire (about £40m), of a Pirelli SPA five-eighths rights issue, a company spokesman said. The issue was to raise capital by between 43,700m lire and 50,000m lire, depending on the extent of conversion of outstanding bonds into shares.

NOTICE OF ISSUE

ABRIDGED PARTICULARS

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

THE SUTTON DISTRICT WATER COMPANY

Originally registered in 1963 as the Sutton and Chertsey Water Company Limited under the Companies Act, 1962, and now incorporated as a Statutory Company under The Statutory Waterworks Act, 1971.

OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF £1,000,000

8 1/2 per cent Redeemable Preference Stock, 1982

(which will mature for redemption at par on 31st May, 1982.)

Minimum Price of Issue — £100 per £100 Stock

Yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the current rate, £13.08 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 (as amended in its application to the Company) of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent. but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order, 1973, such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent. in relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The dividends on this Stock will be at the rate of 8 1/2 per cent. per annum without deduction of tax. Under the imputation tax system, the present associated tax credit at the current rate of advance corporation tax (35/65ths of the distribution) is equal to a rate of 4 15/26 per cent. per annum.

Tenders for the Stock must be made on the Form of Tender supplied with the Prospectus and must be accompanied by a deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for and sent in a sealed envelope to Deloitte & Co., New Issues Department, P.O. Box 297, 128, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX marked "Tender for Sutton Water Stock", so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Wednesday, 18th May, 1977. The balance of the purchase money is to be paid on or before Friday, 17th June, 1977.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from:—

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,

10, Old Jewry, London, EC2R 8EA.

Lloyds Bank Limited,

49, High Street, Sutton, Surrey SM1 1DX

or from the Offices of the Company at 41, Carshalton Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4LQ.

NOTICE OF ISSUE

ABRIDGED PARTICULARS

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

WREXHAM AND EAST DENBIGHSHIRE WATER COMPANY

(Incorporated in England on 23rd June, 1964 by The Wrexham Waterworks Act, 1964)

OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF £1,250,000

8 1/2 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 1982

(which will mature for redemption at par on 30th June, 1982.)

Minimum Price of Issue — £100 per £100 Stock

Yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the current rate, £13.08 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 (as amended in its application to the Company) of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent. but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order, 1973, such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent. in relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

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Tenders for the Stock must be made on the Form of Tender supplied with the Prospectus and must be accompanied by a deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for and sent in a sealed envelope to National Westminster Bank Limited, New Issues Department, P.O. Box No. 79, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD marked "Tender for Wrexham Water Stock", so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Friday, 17th June, 1977. The balance of the purchase money is to be paid on or before Friday, 17th June, 1977.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from:—

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,

10, Old Jewry, London, EC2R 8EA.

National Westminster Bank Limited,

New Issues Department, P.O. Box No. 79, Drapers Gardens, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2P 2BD.

or from the principal Office of the Company at 21 Egerton Street, Wrexham LL11 1ND.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Compañía Anónima Nacional Teléfonos de Venezuela

8 1/4% Guaranteed Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1987

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Fiscal Agency Agreement dated as of December 15, 1972 providing for the above Debentures, \$350,000 principal amount of said Debentures bearing the following serial numbers have been selected for redemption on June 15, 1977, through operation of the Sinking Fund, at the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest thereon to said date:

DEBENTURES OF \$1,000 EACH											
62	1461	3285	4348	5210	5245	5919	7386	8014	8532	9071	9987
123	1511	3285	4348	5210	5245	5919	7386	8014	8532	9071	9987
227	1972	3629	4580	5210	5245	5919	7386	8014	8532	9071	9987
272	1934	3142	4278	5210	5245	5919	7386	8014	8532	9071	9987
357	1943	3285	4348	5210	5245	5919	7386	8014	8532	9071	9987
404	2038	3331	4259	5204	5208	5907	7308	8181	8877	9281	9891
488	2148	3285	4348	5210	5245	5919	7386	8014	8532	9071	9987
586	2262	3285	4348	5210	5245	5919	7386	8014	8532	9071	9987
643	2290	3952	4708	5251	5586	7084	7599	8222	8749	9073	10029
735	2326	3923	4824	5704	5980	7143	7622	8261	8791	9237	10089
805	23	3923	4824	5704	5980	7143	7622	8261	8791	9237	10089
859	2451	3923	4824	5704	5980	7143	7622	8261	8791	9237	10089
922	3439	3845	4912	5745	5835	7159	7739	8318	8810	9105	10123
1042	3559	3845	4912	5745	5835	7159	7739	8318	8810	9105	10123
1018	3670	3918	4994	5895	6896	7198	7744	8368	8864	9489	10201
1143	3668	3845	4912	5745	5835	7159	7739	8318	8810	9105	10123
1149	3703	4084	5096	6094	6774	7211	7838	8392	8941	9547	10242
1152	3707	4141	5070	6044	6812	7288	7917	8508	9052	9632	10218
1247	3732	4238	5117	6084	6945	7311	7966	8539	9073	9639	10252
1309	3868	4321	5141	6159	6975	7369	7997	8641	9183	9727	10288
1369	3868	4321	5141	6159	6975	7369	7997	8641	9183	9727	10288

On June 15, 1977, the Debentures designated above will become due and payable in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment shall be legal tender for the payment of public and private debts. Said Debentures will be paid, upon presentation and surrender thereof with all coupons appertaining thereto maturing after the redemption date, at the option of the holder either (a) at the corporate trust office of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 15 Broad Street, New York, N.Y. 10015, or (b) at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in Buenos Aires, Frankfurt am Main, London, Paris and Zurich; Bank Nieuw & Loope NV

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

Coffee - Arabica coffee futures prices were steady in London, with the May contract at 115.00 and the July contract at 116.00. Robusta coffee futures were also steady, with the May contract at 105.00 and the July contract at 106.00.

Wheat - Soft wheat futures prices were steady in London, with the May contract at 125.00 and the July contract at 126.00. Hard wheat futures were also steady, with the May contract at 135.00 and the July contract at 136.00.

Oil - Crude oil futures prices were steady in London, with the May contract at 18.50 and the July contract at 18.60. Heating oil futures were also steady, with the May contract at 15.50 and the July contract at 15.60.

Gold - Gold prices were steady in London, with the May contract at 1,100.00 and the July contract at 1,110.00.

Eurobond prices (midday indicators)

Country	Par	Offer
UK 1980	100.00	100.00
UK 1981	100.00	100.00
UK 1982	100.00	100.00
UK 1983	100.00	100.00
UK 1984	100.00	100.00
UK 1985	100.00	100.00
UK 1986	100.00	100.00
UK 1987	100.00	100.00
UK 1988	100.00	100.00
UK 1989	100.00	100.00
UK 1990	100.00	100.00
UK 1991	100.00	100.00
UK 1992	100.00	100.00
UK 1993	100.00	100.00
UK 1994	100.00	100.00
UK 1995	100.00	100.00
UK 1996	100.00	100.00
UK 1997	100.00	100.00
UK 1998	100.00	100.00
UK 1999	100.00	100.00
UK 2000	100.00	100.00
UK 2001	100.00	100.00
UK 2002	100.00	100.00
UK 2003	100.00	100.00
UK 2004	100.00	100.00
UK 2005	100.00	100.00
UK 2006	100.00	100.00
UK 2007	100.00	100.00
UK 2008	100.00	100.00
UK 2009	100.00	100.00
UK 2010	100.00	100.00
UK 2011	100.00	100.00
UK 2012	100.00	100.00
UK 2013	100.00	100.00
UK 2014	100.00	100.00
UK 2015	100.00	100.00
UK 2016	100.00	100.00
UK 2017	100.00	100.00
UK 2018	100.00	100.00
UK 2019	100.00	100.00
UK 2020	100.00	100.00
UK 2021	100.00	100.00
UK 2022	100.00	100.00
UK 2023	100.00	100.00
UK 2024	100.00	100.00
UK 2025	100.00	100.00
UK 2026	100.00	100.00
UK 2027	100.00	100.00
UK 2028	100.00	100.00
UK 2029	100.00	100.00
UK 2030	100.00	100.00

Foreign Exchange

The pound closed on a firm note yesterday with a five point rise at 51.758 compared with 51.753 overnight. The effective exchange rate index also moved forward to 61.8 against 61.7 on Tuesday.

Dealers reported fairly busy conditions particularly later in the session when New York came in as a buyer of sterling. Initially more for Eastern support but put the pound on a firm footing and in the virtual absence of any selling, the pound was able to consolidate at the higher level with the Bank of England occasionally called upon to sell sterling.

There was considerable activity in the forward market where dealers covered positions in anticipation of a rise in short term US interest rates.

The dollar in the meantime had another good day at the expense of other major currencies. Deutschemark rose seven pence to 1.4715 (2.3630).

Gold closed unchanged in London at 514.875 an ounce.

Spot Position of Sterling

Market	Rate
New York	1.4715
London	1.4715
Frankfurt	1.4715
Paris	1.4715
Geneva	1.4715
Basel	1.4715
Brussels	1.4715
Amsterdam	1.4715
Stockholm	1.4715
Copenhagen	1.4715
Helsinki	1.4715
Tokyo	1.4715
Singapore	1.4715
Bombay	1.4715
Calcutta	1.4715
Rangoon	1.4715
Colombo	1.4715
Madras	1.4715
Batavia	1.4715
Samarang	1.4715
Manila	1.4715
Cebu	1.4715
Iloilo	1.4715
Baguio	1.4715
San Francisco	1.4715
Los Angeles	1.4715
San Jose	1.4715
San Pedro de Macoris	1.4715
Santiago	1.4715
Medan	1.4715
Bandung	1.4715
Surabaya	1.4715
Yogyakarta	1.4715
Semarang	1.4715
Manado	1.4715
Macassar	1.4715
Palu	1.4715
Ujung Pandeg	1.4715
Watu	1.4715
Marau	1.4715
Belaga	1.4715
Sibu	1.4715
Kuching	1.4715
Putrajaya	1.4715
Kuala Lumpur	1.4715
Ipoh	1.4715
Malacca	1.4715
Port Swettenham	1.4715
Penang	1.4715
Butterworth	1.4715
Alor Setar	1.4715
Georgetown	1.4715
Belaga	1.4715
Sibu	1.4715
Kuching	1.4715
Putrajaya	1.4715
Kuala Lumpur	1.4715
Ipoh	1.4715
Malacca	1.4715
Port Swettenham	1.4715
Penang	1.4715
Butterworth	1.4715
Alor Setar	1.4715
Georgetown	1.4715

Forward Levels

Period	Rate
1 month	1.4715
3 months	1.4715
6 months	1.4715
9 months	1.4715
12 months	1.4715

Gold

Market	Price
London	514.875
New York	514.875
Paris	514.875
Geneva	514.875
Basel	514.875
Brussels	514.875
Amsterdam	514.875
Stockholm	514.875
Copenhagen	514.875
Helsinki	514.875
Tokyo	514.875
Singapore	514.875
Bombay	514.875
Calcutta	514.875
Rangoon	514.875
Colombo	514.875
Madras	514.875
Batavia	514.875
Samarang	514.875
Manila	514.875
Cebu	514.875
Iloilo	514.875
Baguio	514.875
San Francisco	514.875
Los Angeles	514.875
San Jose	514.875
San Pedro de Macoris	514.875
Santiago	514.875
Medan	514.875
Bandung	514.875
Surabaya	514.875
Yogyakarta	514.875
Semarang	514.875
Manado	514.875
Macassar	514.875
Palu	514.875
Ujung Pandeg	514.875
Watu	514.875
Marau	514.875
Belaga	514.875
Sibu	514.875
Kuching	514.875
Putrajaya	514.875
Kuala Lumpur	514.875
Ipoh	514.875
Malacca	514.875
Port Swettenham	514.875
Penang	514.875
Butterworth	514.875
Alor Setar	514.875
Georgetown	514.875

Discount market

The Bank of England relieved a shortage of fresh funds by a moderate sized combination of lending and bill purchases on Monday.

The scale of the Treasury bill purchases was itself within the moderate category. In addition there were some purchases of local authority bills, all the bill operations being direct with the houses. On top of this, and intended as a moderating influence on money rates, the Bank lent a small sum to one or two houses at MLR (84 per cent) for seven days. This was to be taken as indicating that the authorities are not looking for a significant fall in the bill rate at the regular Treasury bill tender tomorrow.

The situation remained rather static throughout the session. Rates started around 62 per cent but were soon firming to around 71 per cent in the afternoon. With money really drying up in places, rates touched 74 per cent, while the closing range was 5 per cent to 74 per cent, with the top end of the range apparently favouring more prominently than the lower.

Money Market Rates

Market	Rate
New York	1.4715
London	1.4715
Frankfurt	1.4715
Paris	1.4715
Geneva	1.4715
Basel	1.4715
Brussels	1.4715
Amsterdam	1.4715
Stockholm	1.4715
Copenhagen	1.4715
Helsinki	1.4715
Tokyo	1.4715
Singapore	1.4715
Bombay	1.4715
Calcutta	1.4715
Rangoon	1.4715
Colombo	1.4715
Madras	1.4715
Batavia	1.4715
Samarang	1.4715
Manila	1.4715
Cebu	1.4715
Iloilo	1.4715
Baguio	1.4715
San Francisco	1.4715
Los Angeles	1.4715
San Jose	1.4715
San Pedro de Macoris	1.4715
Santiago	1.4715
Medan	1.4715
Bandung	1.4715
Surabaya	1.4715
Yogyakarta	1.4715
Semarang	1.4715
Manado	1.4715
Macassar	1.4715
Palu	1.4715
Ujung Pandeg	1.4715
Watu	1.4715
Marau	1.4715
Belaga	1.4715
Sibu	1.4715
Kuching	1.4715
Putrajaya	1.4715
Kuala Lumpur	1.4715
Ipoh	1.4715
Malacca	1.4715
Port Swettenham	1.4715
Penang	1.4715
Butterworth	1.4715
Alor Setar	1.4715
Georgetown	1.4715

Eurodollar

Market	Rate
London	1.4715
New York	1.4715
Paris	1.4715
Geneva	1.4715
Basel	1.4715
Brussels	1.4715
Amsterdam	1.4715
Stockholm	1.4715
Copenhagen	1.4715
Helsinki	1.4715
Tokyo	1.4715
Singapore	1.4715
Bombay	1.4715
Calcutta	1.4715
Rangoon	1.4715
Colombo	1.4715
Madras	1.4715
Batavia	1.4715
Samarang	1.4715
Manila	1.4715
Cebu	1.4715
Iloilo	1.4715
Baguio	1.4715
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Los Angeles	1.4715
San Jose	1.4715
San Pedro de Macoris	1.4715
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Belaga	1.4715
Sibu	1.4715
Kuching	1.4715
Putrajaya	1.4715
Kuala Lumpur	1.4715
Ipoh	1.4715
Malacca	1.4715
Port Swettenham	1.4715
Penang	1.4715
Butterworth	1.4715
Alor Setar	1.4715
Georgetown	1.4715

Wall Street

New York, May 11 - Stocks closed sharply lower on the New York Stock Exchange, reacting to rising short-term interest rates and inflation worries.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 9.24 points to 926.90. Losers outnumbered gainers 970 to 535.

Brokers said selling was touched off early in the session by an apparent tightening of credit policy by the Federal Reserve.

Silver down by 4c

New York, May 11 - Silver futures prices fell 4 cents to 11.40 on Monday, reacting to a decline in the price of gold and a rise in the price of silver.

The price of gold fell 10 cents to 514.875 an ounce, while the price of silver rose 10 cents to 11.40 an ounce.

Eurodollar

Market	Rate
London	1.4715
New York	1.4715
Paris	1.4715
Geneva	1.4715
Basel	1.4715
Brussels	1.4715
Amsterdam	1.4715
Stockholm	1.4715
Copenhagen	1.4715
Helsinki	1.4715
Tokyo	1.4715
Singapore	1.4715
Bombay	1.4715
Calcutta	1.4715
Rangoon	1.4715
Colombo	1.4715
Madras	1.4715
Batavia	1.4715
Samarang	1.4715
Manila	1.4715
Cebu	1.4715
Iloilo	1.4715
Baguio	1.4715
San Francisco	1.4715
Los Angeles	1.4715
San Jose	1.4715
San Pedro de Macoris	1.4715
Santiago	1.4715
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Bandung	1.4715
Surabaya	1.4715
Yogyakarta	1.4715
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Ujung Pandeg	1.4715
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Belaga	1.4715
Sibu	1.4715
Kuching	1.4715
Putrajaya	1.4715
Kuala Lumpur	1.4715
Ipoh	1.4715
Malacca	1.4715
Port Swettenham	1.4715
Penang	1.4715
Butterworth	1.4715
Alor Setar	1.4715
Georgetown	1.4715

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Unit	Price	Dividend	Yield
1. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
2. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
3. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
4. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
5. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
6. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
7. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
8. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
9. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
10. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
11. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
12. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
13. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
14. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
15. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
16. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
17. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
18. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
19. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
20. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
21. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
22. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
23. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
24. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
25. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
26. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
27. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
28. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
29. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
30. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
31. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
32. 1000	100.00	10.00	10.00%
33. 1000	100.00	10.00	

La creme de la creme Opportunities

Managerial-Administrative-Secretarial-Personal Assistants-

ITALIAN SPEAKING SHORTHAND SECRETARY

Around £3,000

Working for 2 Senior Executives in a top American Management Consultancy you will have the opportunity to use your written and spoken Italian skills to travel extensively and need a reliable Secretary to handle their correspondence and telephone calls in English and Italian. Good shorthand and typing skills are essential, and you will have the opportunity to learn and use an electronic typewriter to produce first-class reports and correspondence. Phone Penny Notes on 01-404 5701.

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PERSONAL ASSISTANT FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE-BERKSHIRE

The Chief Executive of an international group of companies is looking for a Personal Assistant to assist him in a variety of administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the Chief Executive's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

PERSONAL SECRETARY

GREEN PARK To £4,000

A well organized and sophisticated businessman who is Director of several companies is looking for a Personal Secretary to assist him in a variety of administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the Director's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BRUSSELS

SALARY EQUIVALENT TO £7,500 TO £8,000 P.A. Required for the Managing Director of Squibb Pharmaceuticals situated in Brussels. The candidate must have fluency in French or Dutch and English, be aged between 28-35 years, with mature outlook and high administrative capability. Assistance will be given to relocate. Initial interview will be held in London and reply to: Susan Henderson, Department of Personnel and Industrial Relations, Squibb Europe Ltd., Regent House, Twickenham, Middlesex TW1 3OT

TimeOut ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER

We are looking for a person, male or female, who is familiar with the production of a high quality publication and has experience in the advertising industry. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the publication's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

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TOP SECRETARY/PA

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GERMAN STEEL CO.

£4,100. Sought hard-working, efficient Secretary. English mother tongue, English/German shorthand, capable of sending her own telex for diversified and demanding sector (office near Oxford Circus). Telephone Mr. Hatten on 734 4787 or 224 9445.

WORKING, SURREY

Printing & Publishing. An opportunity exists in a well established family company of Book and Journal Printers based in Surrey for two persons with personal skills and enthusiasm to join our expanding Sales team. Salary £2,500 plus commission and company car and usual fringe benefits. Please apply to the Sales Manager, United Press Ltd., 100, Watlington Road, Guildford, Surrey GU2 0AH.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES LTD.

PA/SEC c £3,500 + W1. Senior Partner of a young, go-ahead London based, successful, well-organized company will be looking for a PA/SEC to assist him in a variety of administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the partner's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

SECRETARY/PA FOR CRAFTS ORGANISATION

We are looking for a Secretary/PA for the Head of the Crafts Advisory Committee which helps promote the work of British artist-craftsmen. If you have secretarial experience at a senior level and a genuine interest in the arts and in crafts, this should appeal to you. We offer a starting salary of £3,400-£3,800, depending on experience plus 4 weeks' annual holiday. Please contact Jan Ellis on 01-839 8000, ext. 39, THE DESIGN COUNCIL, 28 Haymarket Square, London W1J 6ET.

MARGERY HURST CENTRE

SENIOR SEC/PA £3,700. For Japanese trading co. in London. Excellent opportunity for a min. capable sec. SECRETARY/PA £3,500. Vice-President of International Bank in C.E. Superb office and superb of modern equipment. Contact Mrs. J. H. Hurst, 44 New Lane, E.C.2.

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First class PA/Secretary for a leading advertising agency. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the agency's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

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If you know a good secretary when you see one, perhaps you would like to take charge of a recruitment drive for a leading international company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the company's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

SECRETARY FOR DIRECTORS

International Company in Communications and Electronics. This is a challenging position for a Secretary/PA to assist the Managing Director in a variety of administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the Managing Director's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

VERSATILE SECRETARY/PA

Small City office. 3 international lawyers, need personable, educated, adaptable Secretary with initiative, responsible to them with one other for all secretarial duties and office administration, also the bookkeeping if possible. Call Elizabeth Clarke, 606-8598.

£4,000+

PA WANTED. A young intelligent person capable of co-ordinating a growing company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the company's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

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Salary £3,500 Contact Liz Moore JUDY PARQUHARSON LTD., 17 Stratton St. (Green Park), London W1J 6ET. 01-493 8824.

SECRETARY/P.A.

for Interior Design Company working for young Director (in sales). Career minded woman with responsibility for presswork, photo atmosphere, £3,200 + L.V. Phone Marlene Few 323-0111 Alfred Marks Bureau

WE SPEAK YOUR LANGUAGE

do you speak your language? Among our vast selection of secretaries you will find one who speaks your language. We have these secretaries available for a knowledge of language.

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As Secretary to Marketing Manager you will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the Marketing Manager's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

Top Type

High Level Committee Secretary. The charity Voluntary and Christian Service and its associated organizations are controlled by various committees. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the committees' diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

International Secretaries

The language people. We are looking for a Secretary/PA for a leading international company. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the company's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

ROYAL FREE HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SECRETARY. required for Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. Good typing and shorthand essential. Salary according to grade and experience on scale £3,000 to £3,600 including London allowance. Apply in writing as soon as possible with names and addresses of two referees to the School Secretary, 8 Hunter St., London WC1N 1EP.

ARE YOU THE BEST?

I am an international fashion designer who travels frequently. I need the most creative, skilled, responsible Secretary/Personal Assistant available to whom I will pay £4,000 p.a. +. If you think you are the one, give me a ring on 01-580 2579

ARE YOU VERSATILE ENOUGH?

The young MD of a small, rapidly expanding company, with offices in London and Birmingham, is looking for a versatile Secretary/PA to assist him in a variety of administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the MD's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

DULWICH

Partner of professional firm needs very competent Secretary to work in pleasant office away from the city. Excellent salary for the right person. Telephone 01-493 1755

PA/SECRETARY

Entrepreneur with interests in property, photography and other ventures, needs a capable, experienced, reliable, adaptable, and hard-working PA/SEC to assist him in a variety of administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the entrepreneur's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

LEGAL SECRETARY-WI

Partner of young go-ahead firm of Solicitors seeks a capable, experienced, reliable, adaptable, and hard-working Legal Secretary to assist him in a variety of administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the office, including the management of the partner's diary, correspondence, and travel arrangements. The position offers a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a motivated individual. Please apply to Mrs H. M. Rayner, CompAir Limited, Brunel Way, Slough, Berkshire. Tel: Slough 30611

INSIDE THE CITY! PA/SECRETARY

required for out of the ordinary job. Experience in PR/Marketing useful but not essential. Salary £3,200 - Ring Miss Blackburn, 628 8822.

CONTACT LENS PRACTICE, W.1

Requires Secretary/Receptionist. P.R. ability and initiative to organise help. Salary negotiable. Tel: 01-486 0608

INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

After 6 happy years I am leaving to live in the country. Would you like to replace me? You would need to speak French, to have at least three years' secretarial experience and be able to operate a telex. You would also need a sense of humour and plenty of energy to look after two busy gentlemen and run the office (2 mins. Waterloo). Salary £3,500 + L.V.s + 4 weeks' holiday.

Please telephone 01-928 5265/5755

Consider the sm, responsibility and job satisfaction of dealing with the administrative needs of a small, educational mail order set-up in West London. Commencing salary of £3,750.

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